

Saudi general assails Schwarzkopf

LO'DON (AP) — A retired Saudi general has accused U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf of claiming all the glory for the allies' Gulf war victory last year, the Times of London reported Wednesday. It quoted Gen. Khalid Ben Sultan, who shared command of allied forces in the Gulf, as saying Gen. Schwarzkopf's autobiography "It doesn't take a hero" contains inaccuracies and slanted remarks. Gen. Schwarzkopf, who was in overall command of the U.S.-led allied force, is in Britain to promote the book. He was at a party at the Imperial War Museum in London Tuesday night marking its publication. The Times said Prince Khalid was angry about what he sees as Gen. Schwarzkopf's attempt to take all the credit for driving Iraqi forces from Kuwait. It quoted the prince, who it said is writing his war recollections, as saying: "There are so many inaccuracies and slanted remarks in his book that I feel I must set the record straight... One is asked to believe that Gen. Schwarzkopf alone perceived the urgency of the threat from Iraq, that he alone devised the war plans and orchestrated every phase of the campaign. He minimises the role of my own command in achieving territory."

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German leader raises Jordan

NN (Petra) — Deputy Speaker of the German Parliament Hans Klein has said that Jordan has been employing its natural resources as well as loans and other forms of aid in a manner that yielded good results. Jordan's vast experience in this endeavour provides indications of a prosperous future for the Kingdom which is deeply respected in many, Mr. Klein said in an interview with Khaled Mahdadi, director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Mr. Klein said many believe that the Jordanian-Israeli conflict should be settled as part of an overall Middle East settlement. "I am confident that the Middle East's crises can be solved and that the Arabs can utilise their natural resources and their vast reserves in the development of their countries," Mr. Klein said. German people look to His Majesty King Hussein with deep respect and appreciation as he is a leader with far-sightedness, leadership with wisdom and a man, Mr. Klein said. Mr. Klein, who served at the German Embassy in Amman 30 years ago, was impressed by the developments achieved in Jordan.

Lebanese protest fighting in Lebanon

ION (AP) — Palestinian refugees in Sidon staged a day-long protest on Wednesday to protest against assassinations between the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and dissident Abu Nidal in which 17 people have been killed. Schools, shops and other businesses were closed and people were seen in 'Ain Al Hilweh. Mich Mich camps on the eastern outskirts of this provincial capital of South Lebanon. Jews waved the Palestinian flag and shouted "Stop the blood! We want peace." Demonstrators burned car tires at the entrances to 'Ain Al Hilweh for 60,000 refugees.

trial demanded

nisanian Islamists

IS (R) — Amnesty International urged Tunisia Wednesday to give fair trials to Muslim fundamentalists jailed last August following charges that some were tortured and several died in custody. The human rights organisation said the 265 militants held in the outgrowth of the outlawed movement Al Qaeda were sentenced, some of them to life, in unfair mass trials. Charges of plotting against the government were not specified. Amnesty said Tunisia's sign Minister Habib Ben Jaafar sent an early copy of its report, had denied the prisoners were tortured or had unfair trials. He said the government had tried to probe into the death of detainees following indications that he was tortured.

ssia releases senpeace boat

O (R) — Russian authorities released a Greenpeace ship Wednesday after stopping it nine days ago when the environmental organisation tried to inspect Arctic nuclear dumps. "We've been released," expedition leader John Sprange told reporters by satellite telephone from the Solo as it sailed from the port of Murmansk. He said Russian authorities "decided they want to go ahead with the charges. We're now on our way to Norway." The Solo was stopped by troops from the coastguard on Oct. 12 in Kara Sea as it tried to reach a site where Greenpeace says 15 nuclear reactors were dumped by the former Soviet navy over 30 years.

el, New Zealand cooperate in force

AVTV (AP) — New Zealand Defence Minister Warren Fergusson agreed to cooperate with the area of defence after a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday, an official ministry statement said. Rabin, who also serves as prime minister, briefed Mr. Fergusson on Israel's defence problems on the arms race in the statement said.

Seventh round of talks opens; Israel plans explicit offer on Golan Heights to Syria

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI AND JORDANIAN negotiators met at the State Department Wednesday, opening a seventh round of Middle East peace negotiations.

Israeli delegates were to hold separate talks with Syria, Lebanon and Palestinians from the occupied territories later in the day.

The talks scheduled to last until Nov. 19 with a recess at the end of October ahead of the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential elections.

Discord among Palestinians and the U.S. elections are complicating the latest round of talks.

The seventh round began with the Israelis holding morning meetings with Jordan and Lebanon.

Palestinian spokeswoman Ashrawi said that after a year of negotiations beginning in Madrid, Spain, last October, "We hope to set in motion something concrete and substantive."

Dr. Ashrawi, at the State Department to discuss the latest round with Assistant Secretary of State Ed Djerejian, added: "We are willing to engage. We will discuss all issues of substance." The talks will focus on two goals:

— An Israel-Syria agreement on principles of exchanging land

for peace. — A plan to extend autonomy to the 1.7 million Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli Radio reported that Israeli negotiators were to give Syria an explicit offer Wednesday to yield at least part of the Golan Heights.

It said a new Israeli document was to be handed to the Syrians at the resumption of negotiations in Washington.

The radio's Washington correspondent quoted sources in the Israeli delegation as saying the document clearly expressed willingness to withdraw from at least part of the Golan Heights.

The Israeli-Syrian talks appear to have a better chance of succeeding, although Syria insists it will accept only a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel wants a Syrian pledge of peace before it returns any land and has suggested the process begin with a partial withdrawal or an interim arrangement.

Israeli Radio quoted sources in the Israeli delegation as saying their new offer on the Golan offers "more than the Syrians got" at previous negotiating sessions, and yields to the Syrians "on many of the points that are important to them."

Israel's talks with the Palestinians are clouded by a new outbreak of anti-Israeli street violence in the occupied territory and vocal opposition by leftists and Islamic fundamentalists to any accord with Israel.

At the sixth round a month ago, Israel outlined general elections of administrators for a self-governing Palestinian authority and other measures to increase Palestinian control over education, police, courts and taxes.

The Palestinians are seeking their own legislature, an idea rejected by Israel as the first step towards a Palestinian state.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, Mahmoud Abbas, said in Tunis Tuesday that chances for real progress in this round were not bright. "We don't anticipate too much and we think the negotiations might take more time than expected," he said.

The parties will also be distracted by the U.S. elections and the possibility that Democrat Bill Clinton will take over the White House. President George Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker have made Mideast peace a cornerstone of their foreign policy, and there is concern

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Court appoints lawyers for Shbeilat, Qarrash

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami resumed Wednesday with the State Security Court appointing two state lawyers for accused deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash following the protest withdrawal of their attorneys early this week.

At the outset of the session, Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash maintained their defiance, accusing the prosecution of framing them for political reasons, and refused to abide by a court order to hire new defence counsels. They also vowed to continue a hunger-strike in detention in protest against the court's handling of the proceedings.

The accused deputies, in separate statements to the court for the first time since the trial began on Sept. 29, made a number of demands before they would agree to cooperate in the trial. Presiding Judge Lieutenant-Colonel Youssef Fawzi rejected their requests and named two new lawyers for the deputies' defence.

A heated exchange between Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi and Shbeilat supporters also took place inside the courtroom before the court was in session. A few men were thrown out of the courtroom for applauding when Mr. Shbeilat walked inside the courthouse around 100 men staged a pro-Shbeilat demonstration.

Tension ran high in the court-

room when the panel of three military judges took their seats, opening the session 55 minutes later than scheduled. Judge Fawzi reminded the courtroom, as he had done once before, to refrain from applauding or cheering.

"What really deserves applause is justice," Lt. Col. Fawzi firmly told the public. "Go clap elsewhere; there is no clapping in this court."

The judge, who was visibly upset by the events in the courtroom before the session began, told Mr. Shbeilat to stand up and asked him whether he had appointed new defence counsel. Mr. Shbeilat said that his defence team, which withdrew from the case on Sunday in protest against a secret session the day before, was prepared to return to the court provided that a "secret" prosecution witness was cross-examined publicly.

The defence for both deputies had pulled out of the case after an unscheduled court session was held on Saturday, during which an "Arab" witness, identified as "Yassin Ramadan Yassin," testified against Mr. Shbeilat. The witness, according to Maj. Hijazi, said he carried money — about \$200,000 — from the Iranian leadership to Mr. Shbeilat last April.

The defence had argued that they could neither see the man's face nor prove his identity since they were not permitted to see

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2 Israeli soldiers wounded in attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian activists shot and wounded two Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, the army said.

The two soldiers were driving in a military car near the West Bank town of Hebron when shots were fired at them from a car marked with the blue plates of Palestinians from the occupied territories, an army statement said.

One of the soldiers was said to be in fair condition, while the woman officer travelling with him was injured slightly, it added. Military sources said local Palestinian rescuers rescued the wounded soldiers from their overturned car and rushed them to a local hospital. From there they were transferred to Israel.

Israeli army chief Ehud Barak told reporters in Hebron later that the army expected Palestinian rejectionists to try to carry out attacks during the peace talks.

Hours after the incident, an unidentified man who said he represented the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) telephoned an international news agency claiming responsibility.

Hamas, which opposes Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, has attacked Israeli soldiers and settlers during the five-year-old uprising in the occupied territories.



CLERGY CONGRATULATE KING: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received Greek Orthodox Patriarch Demetrios I, who congratulated him on his safe return home following successful surgery in the U.S. King Hussein thanked the patriarch for his feelings and asked him to convey his greetings and appreciation for members of his community. Patriarch Demetrios was accompanied by Orthodox Armenian Patriarch Torghom Manoukian, Bishop Basilios, Bishop Tomonios, Armenian Orthodox



Patriarch Vahan Topalian and Father Adeb Ammari. King Hussein also received Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and the Middle East Samir Qaf'it, who conveyed to the King greetings from his community in Jerusalem. King Hussein voiced his gratitude and asked the archbishop to convey his greetings to members of his community. The audience was attended by Father Saleh Dawani, Ghazi Masharbash and Samir Qawar (Petra photos)

Prince urges institutional approach to Mideast

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan has called for addressing all the disparities and discrepancies in the Middle East through an institutional framework linked with a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The call came in an address the Crown Prince delivered at the Global Forum of the International Peace Academy, New York.

In the address, entitled "The Middle East: Prospects for Peace and Cooperation," the Crown Prince reaffirmed Jordan's quest for an all-embracing solution to the various dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a new era in the region based on regional cooperation supported by the international community.

Following are major excerpts from the address: "Collective security against aggression must uphold a cardinal principle of international law: The non-admissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. This principle lies at the heart of the Middle East conflict, as the framework for its resolution is dependent on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, encapsulated in the formula

calling for the exchange of peace for territory.

"In bilateral talks, the negotiating parties are engaged in a search for steps to achieve peace as envisioned in those resolutions. Despite obstacles, progress has been made. The phase of public posturing and maximalist demands has passed. Substantive papers have been submitted to establish the parameters of operational plans for the negotiations, addressing core issues such as territory, security and the nature of peace."

"The Palestinian-Israeli track has breached a timetable for elections and the inauguration of a transitional period in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Jordanian-Israeli track has focused on negotiating a common agenda. This is no small task; it requires agreement on issues of substance, and will therefore speed the process in its later stages. The formulation of mutually acceptable language delineates the interrelationship between issues and the 'baskets' within which families of issues may be approached."

"It is true that there remain serious and legitimate differences over both the form and substance of interim self-government arrangements for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The optimism that greeted the

new Israeli administration was perhaps premature. There is a gap between public perception and the realities of the negotiating table. The positions advanced by the Israeli negotiators sometimes fall short of their government's programme; and the promised reforms — a halt to settlement activity, the release of Palestinian political prisoners — have yet to be fully implemented. Experience has shown that confidence-building measures are needed to break down the psychological barriers on both sides."

"Nevertheless, the prospect of the Palestinian people realising their right to govern themselves in their homeland — the core issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict — is within reach. The geographic proximity of Jordan to Palestine, coupled with the historical and cultural links between the two peoples, has led to the convergence of interests on regional issues. This is reflected in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under the 'joint umbrella' agreement. The joint approach has prompted intense speculation on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. However, discussion of a confederation is premature. It pre-emptes not only the final outcome of the current negotiations, but also the future of

the Palestinian identity.

"In the long term, a Benelux-type arrangement has been suggested as a basis between Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. It may possibly prove necessary to provide the psychological and material security essential for sustainable peace. Jordan's role, whatever the institutional framework, would be to contribute to the stability of a 'terra media' capable of utilising the financial resources of the oil-rich states of the Gulf in tandem with the huge reservoir of skilled manpower of the countries lying northward. It is envisaged as a middle ground of moderation, development and peace."

"It is our belief that at the national level, democratic procedures and institutions are essential to sustainable peace and security. Stable and fulfilled populations are not likely to engage in adventures abroad, or radical and destabilising ideology. Furthermore, Jordan holds respect for human rights as a natural right for freedom of speech, political opinion and religious belief are the bedrock of liberal pluralism. Our success in promoting education for all, and the participation of women in civil society, are a natural product of these

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British tourist killed in bus attack in S. Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a tour bus Wednesday in an area of Muslim extremist violence, killing a British woman and wounding two British men, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

Seventy-two people have died and 93 have been wounded this year in violence connected to Muslim extremist actions. MENA said doctors at Dairut in southern Egypt failed to save the life of the wounded British tourist. As she was being transported, she was being operated on at Dairut hospital. She said the men's wounds were superficial.

MENA said that the tourist bus carried nine passengers, six Britons, two Australians and one Portuguese.

MENA said that the tourist bus came under "heavy fire" near Dairut as it was headed from Cairo to the provincial capital Assiut. Dairut is 60 kilometres north of Assiut, which is 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Security sources in Assiut said Muslim extremists were suspected. If they were responsible, the attack would be the ninth by Muslim extremists against tourists in southern Egypt since an upsurge of violence began last spring. There were no serious injuries in any of those attacks. The wounds suffered by Wednesday's victims would appear to be the most serious among foreign tourists. A handful of tourists so far suffered on superficial wounds.

The sources quoted the bus driver as saying he saw a little boy standing beside the highway blow a whistle as the vehicle approached. Immediately afterward, gunshots were fired from fields along the highway.

Blast kills 3 in Baghdad; feud kills 266 in south

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A government munitions depot has exploded in the Iraqi capital, killing at least three people and wounding 27 others, the newspaper Babel reported Wednesday in a rare disclosure.

The same day, published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said in a separate report that clashes between rival Shiite Muslim tribes in southern Iraq killed 266 people and wounded 442.

Security incidents are rarely mentioned by the government-controlled media and the reports in Babel seemed to reflect a possible move towards greater freedoms.

The Arabic-language daily said the government was investigating the cause of the explosion which occurred Monday, but did not indicate if sabotage was suspected.

It did not specify where in the sprawling capital the explosion occurred, but said a state of emergency was declared in the area.

It was the first time that an Iraqi newspaper has carried graphic detail and pictures of such incidents.

The photographs showed a huge ball of fire and badly twisted cars. Some showed men with multiple burns being treated at a hospital.

The report described the explosion as "huge," and that windows across the neighbourhood were

rattled by the impact.

At least 100 hospital wagons and 50 fire fighting machines were used to evacuate the wounded and control the blaze, Babel said.

There was no immediate government comment. The other report said the Shiites were using weapons which they had been given by the government to fight each other, instead of protecting Iraq against infiltrators.

"The state should cut the ears of those who used weapons because these weapons were given to them by the government in order to fight the United States, which is plotting against Iraq," said the newspaper.

Babel said a land dispute spawned the fighting, but added that "outlawed elements," a usual reference to army deserters, joined in the fight.

The paper said the fighting occurred in Al Hiy district, 50 kilometres south of the provincial centre of Wasit, in Kut.

Forty-six people were killed and 22 wounded in the first clashes, which ended when a group of six tribes overran the homes of their rivals and drove them into the marshes.

Fighting resumed in the marshes, where 220 people were killed and 400 wounded, it added.

Babel said the fighting began as a land dispute between one man

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Jordan sees Hassan II launching 'positive initiative'

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — King Hassan II of Morocco is expected to arrive here early next week as part of a 10-day visit to the Middle East that observers describe as a "promising initiative" to bridge the gap among Arab countries still divided by their conflicting stands towards the Gulf war.

A supporter of the Arab summit as an institution, the Moroccan monarch is expected to discuss the convening of an Arab summit with his hosts in Saudi Arabia — where he arrived Wednesday — the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

Observers are optimistic about the success of his mission

despite an assertion by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid earlier this week that the time was not ripe for an Arab summit.

King Hassan will not put his prestige on the line, embark on a reconciliation initiative and make a public call for an Arab summit unless he receives enough assurances that his initiative will be met with a positive response, political analysts say.

"One should attach special expectations to the fact that King Hassan has taken the initiative to reconcile Arab countries," one highly-informed observer said.

Though King Hassan has always worked for Arab reconciliation, he rarely leaves his

country to undertake such an effort. The fact that he is making the trip is a source of optimism, observers say.

Political analysts also believe the time is opportune for an Arab summit, without which complete reconciliation among Arab states will not be achieved.

The history of Arab summits shows that they have always convened in times of crisis and "the Arab World is currently going through a crisis," according to one analyst.

Also, most Arab countries which were divided by the Gulf war are moving towards reconciliation, which would encourage an Arab heads of state meeting.

Analysts also point to the

visit of His Majesty King Hussein to Egypt earlier this month and the continuous coordination among Arab parties to Arab-Israeli peace talks as another sign of defused tension.

However, they say that a summit cannot convene without the approval of Riyadh and Cairo. While Jordan's relations with Cairo are improving, the "gap with Saudi Arabia remains wide," said one observer. Therefore, analysts see the choice of Riyadh as the first stop for King Hassan as a strong indication that the Moroccan monarch is seeking the convening of a summit but first wants to win the approval of Saudi Arabia.

Government and Moroccan embassy sources in Amman will not comment on the nature of King Hassan's first tour of the region in 30 years, but Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif said Jordan welcomes any effort for Arab reconciliation or the convening of an Arab summit.

"We cannot comment on the visit but in principle we are in favour of Arab reconciliation," Mr. Sharif said.

During his visit, the Moroccan monarch is also expected to discuss the Middle East peace process and other border disputes that have recently

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Mark Your Calendar
Thursday October 29th — Friday November 6th.

Bani Hamida
JORDAN RIVER designs

★ Fine handicrafts ★ Weavings ★ Quilts

FALL EXHIBITION
at the Haj Hassan Estate

Berri climbs from trenches to top post

BEIRUT (R) — Nabih Berri, Lebanon's new speaker of parliament, is a former warlord who abandoned extremism and won the top political post reserved for a leader of the country's Shiite Muslim majority.

An articulate, charismatic lawyer, Mr. Berri is perhaps best known in the West for his role in negotiating the release of 39 Americans held hostage in Beirut in 1985 by militants who hijacked a U.S. Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane.

Mr. Berri, the 54-year-old head of the Shiite Amal movement and minister of state in the outgoing cabinet, was elected speaker of the new 128-seat assembly Tuesday.

Over the years he has moved from extremism to moderation in a fight for power for Lebanon's 900,000 Shiites. Concentrated in the south, the eastern Bekaa Valley and southern Beirut, they are the poorest and fastest growing sect in a population of three million.

In a bold reminder of Mr. Berri's past, Amal members, though officially disarmed, fired volleys of machinegun fire and anti-tank rockets into the air in Beirut to celebrate his election.

But Mr. Berri's political moderation was clearly reflected in his call, after winning the post, for a dialogue with Christian groups that had boycotted Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years.

The Christians, alarmed by Syria's growing influence in Lebanon, had wanted the polls postponed until after Damascus pulled its troops out of Beirut and surrounding areas.

Voting was held in four rounds between Aug. 23 and Oct. 11.

Mr. Berri is one of Syria's closest allies. Damascus armed his group and gave him political backing when Amal battled almost all militias of Lebanon's 1975 to 1990 civil war.

But it was among the first of the groups to hand over its heavy arms when the war ended.

Amal fought the Lebanese army, Christian militias, Druze gunmen, Palestinian guerrillas, Sunni Muslim militiamen, pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters and Israeli troops in the 1980s.

Mr. Berri was born in 1938 in Sierra Leone to an emigrant merchant family from Tibnine in South Lebanon.

In his student days, he joined the pan-Arab Baath Party, rival branches of which now rule Syria and Iraq, but switched allegiance in the early 1970s to the newly-founded Movement of the Deprived.

The movement, led by Iranian-born cleric Musa Sadr, voiced Shiite grievances effectively for the first time. Amal, its military arm, was a growing power by 1978, when Sadr mysteriously disappeared on a visit to Libya.

Mr. Berri's prestige reached its height when Amal combined with Druze and Sunni militiamen to drive Christian Lebanese army troops from west Beirut on Feb. 6, 1984.

He was first appointed to the cabinet that year as a minister for the south, all of which was then under Israeli occupation.



Nabih Berri

Mr. Berri's determination to stamp his authority on the Muslim half of the capital led to fierce clashes between Amal and Sunni and Druze militiamen that killed hundreds of innocent civilians.

Wary of a revival of Palestinian military power attracting Israeli retaliation in the traditional Shiite heartland of the south, he embroiled Amal in a draining five-year "camps war" against Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut and southern Lebanon.

The militia, also fearing the growing influence of Hezbollah among Shiites, engaged the pro-Iranians in three years of war.

Mr. Berri has married twice, first to his cousin who now lives in the United States with their seven children. He lives in Beirut with his second wife, Randa, and their two daughters. He likes to read political books, write poems and enjoys swimming.

Iraq bans luxury imports to support dinar

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, struggling to prop up its sinking dinar after more than two years of U.N. sanctions, stopped importing luxury goods Tuesday and told traders to clear them from their shelves by Nov. 20.

An import ban announced in advance by President Saddam Hussein in August came into operation on a list of 157 items from cheese to personal computers. Only essential items may still be imported.

"We are now allowed to import only two sets of items," said a Baghdad trader. "Foodstuffs, which are exempt from customs duties, and a long list of spare parts, agricultural instruments and electrical appliances which will be heavily taxed by the government."

The government relaxed import rules after the United Nations imposed sanctions in August 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait.

Baghdad is still a wash with foreign goods filling supermarket shelves at prices beyond the reach of most Iraqis.

Economists blame the imports for undermining the dinar, currently changing hands on the black market at 31 to the dollar compared with the official \$3.2 to one dinar, and the pre-Gulf war black market rate of around three dinars to the dollar.

"They (traders) smuggled hard cash, local currency, gold and other valuables and brought in luxury goods which most people do not use or need," said a Baghdad University economics professor.

"We imported cigarettes worth \$800,000 each day," said a trader who is member of Iraq's Chamber of Commerce. "The dinar will just go on sinking if you do not stop it."

The currency briefly touched bottom on the black market last month, with the dollar fetching as much as 47 dinars. It regained strength, but nosedived again after the U.N. voted on Oct. 2 to seize some of Iraq's frozen assets abroad.

The dinar is convertible in neighbouring countries still trading with Iraq despite the U.N. sanctions. A stronger dinar, the government hopes, will lower prices and make life a bit easier for many of its hard-hit people.

Iraq has also drawn up a plan to ease the transfer of its currency back home from neighbouring countries, particularly Jordan, Iraq's trading lifeline.

Baghdad traders say many Jordanian businessmen keep large sums in Iraqi banks.

Jordanians have millions of dinars. They believe the dinar will regain strength when oil exports resume, one trader said. Last week, Iraq said it would allow dinars to be repatriated provided they were deposited in banks at the current interest rate of 10 per cent and not withdrawn for at least two years.

Dinars may be invested in industrial and agricultural projects provided the ensuing earnings are not sent abroad.

But traders said foreigners were unlikely to be attracted. "Why bring the money in and wait for two years to be able to use it?" one said.

A crackdown on profiteering and illegal hoarding led to the execution of 42 traders last July. Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh warned Friday that traders and retailers keeping banned goods in their stores or shops will risk confiscation and punishment after November 20.

"The decision to ban the import of luxury goods is irreversible and traders hoarding such items should get rid of them using all possible means," he said.

No anti-Islam crusade in Bosnia — U.S. officials

By Lamey Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A top U.S. official Wednesday rejected suggestions that the conflict in former Yugoslavia was a crusade against Islam and defended what has been described as a slow American response to the bloodletting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Thomas M.T. Niles also ruled out imminent U.S. military action against Serbian aggression as was the case with Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We don't see the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina... as a crusade against Islam... primarily we are seeing it as an expression of a new and virulent form of Serbian nationalism aimed as much at Catholic Croats as the Islamic people in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Niles said.

In a satellite news conference on American and U.N. approach to the conflict, Mr. Niles deflected allegations of a "reluctant and belated response to the con-

flict" compared to the swift military swipe to end Iraq's occupation of oil-rich Kuwait.

"The analogy between the international response to Saddam Hussein's invasion and seizure of Kuwait and the former Yugoslavia is not a very good one," Mr. Niles said, adding that the U.S. intervention in Kuwait was proof Washington does not fear Muslims because the emirate is an Islamic state.

Responding to questions from reporters in Amman, Cairo, Islamabad and Abu Dhabi, Mr. Niles sidestepped answering if Iraq's seizure of oilfields was a direct factor in launching the Gulf war.

Mr. Niles defended what one reporter described as a slow imposition of the "no-fly" zone to protect Bosnian civilians in light of the quickly-placed air restriction zone over rebel Shiite and Kurdish populations in Iraq.

"Iraq can't be compared. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a clear violation of international law," Mr. Niles said. He added that the conflict in Bosnia was much more

complex and confusing than in Iraq and military experts have dismissed the use of allied weapons, apart from employing "military assets" for humanitarian relief.

"The no-fly zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina is perhaps an example of the successful effort to protect the Kurdish population in the north and the Shiite population in the south of Iraq," Mr. Niles said.

Since the Bosnian war pitting Serbs against Muslims and Croats erupted eight months ago, Washington has come under increasing condemnation for not intervening militarily.

So far the war has claimed at least 14,000 lives and displaced more than one million people, many from a relentless campaign of mass expulsions now become known as "ethnic cleansing."

On Aug. 25, U.S. State Department desk officer for Yugoslavia G. Kenney resigned because of a U.S. failure to end the Bosnian conflict. Mr. Kenney has said that military might was needed to counterbalance the

well-armed Serbian forces, allied by the former Yugoslav army.

Washington has said that any intervention would only exacerbate the crisis and civilian casualties.

Mr. Niles said the U.S. played a leading role in galvanizing world attention to the crisis, folding when at a Lisbon conference in May former Secretary of State James Baker described mer Yugoslavia as a "humanitarian nightmare."

That speech, Mr. Niles said, led directly to U.N. Security Council resolution 757, which slapped economic sanctions on Serbia, Montenegro.

Mr. Niles told reporters "economic warfare" has "been the Serbian economy" and "no-fly" zone imposed over Bosnia on Oct. 9 has grounded a Serbian aircraft that once spied on civilians with bombs.

Nuclear inspector disputes Bush's statement on Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former head of United Nations nuclear inspections in Iraq Tuesday disputed President George Bush's statement that no U.S. technology was used in that country's atomic development programme.

David A. Kay led three nuclear inspectors in Iraq after the Gulf war. He was quoted by the Centre for Security Policy, a conservative research group, as saying that "U.S.-manufactured equipment and nuclear technology were found as components of Iraq's nuclear programme."

Mr. Kay cited as examples electron-beam welding machines made in the United States that the U.N. inspectors discovered at Iraqi nuclear development sites, the research group said in a news release.

Mr. Bush made the statement in Monday night's presidential debate, in response to charges by Bill Clinton and Ross Perot that his administration had coddled Iraq before the Gulf war.

"The nuclear capability has been searched by the United Nations, and there hasn't been one single scintilla of evidence that there's any U.S. technology involved in it," the president said.

"And what you're seeing on this 'Iraqgate' is a bunch of people who were wrong on the war trying to cover their necks and try to do a little revisionism. And I cannot let that stand, because it isn't true."

Democrats in Congress have blasted the administration for months for what they say is a dangerous policy of supporting Iraq before the Gulf war.

The U.S. aid to Iraq included sales of advanced technology. Under President Ronald Reagan and Bush, the Department of Commerce gave U.S. companies permission to sell Iraq some \$1.5 billion in technology with potential military uses from 1985 until Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

After the Gulf war, U.N. inspectors in Iraq discovered an electron-beam welder that they were certain had been used in its nuclear weapons programme.

The welder, found at the Iraqi nuclear site, came from the U.S. subsidiary of Germany's Leybold A.G. As such, it was a clear violation of a key condition that the Department of Commerce had attached to its export license.

Cairo buildings collapse; crushes five to death

CAIRO (Agencies) — A building vacated because of cracks from last week's deadly earthquake fell early Wednesday and crushed a house next door, killing five people, police said. A man was pulled from the debris nine hours later.

The deaths raised to 557 the toll from the Oct. 12 earthquake, most killed by collapsing buildings during the earthquake and its aftershocks. As well, many schoolchildren were trampled to death in the panic or died under collapsed banisters and balconies.

The government's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported that four of the five victims of Wednesday's collapses in the low-income neighborhood of Imbaba were children aged seven to 13. The agency said five people were injured.

Imbaba has been a trouble spot where Muslim extremists have engaged in sectarian conflict and clashes with police in the past year.

There were no reports of a baba unrest associated with the earthquake. But religious fundamentalists have made points in its aftermath by pointing shelter to people who left their homes and cannot get back from the government.

The two buildings, situated close together, appeared to be a post-midnight aftershock. Some 200 families given flats after their homes were destroyed in the earthquake spent a month in tents across a road waiting for their new homes to be finished.

"The sewerage system is hooked up yet so they will have to stay in the tents for three weeks to a month," Qalyubiya Governor Adel Alhamy said.

The families moved their belongings from the Cairo suburb Shubra Al Khayma to the apartments in Al Khayma, about 40 kilometres northeast of Cairo, only to find they would be living in tents across the street.

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The Dinner at 8:30 OR The afternoon tea at 11:00
on Tuesday Oct. 27th on Wed. Oct. 28th
at the «Nabatean» Room at the «Nabatean» Hotel At Amra Hotel

For tickets and further information please contact «PROMISE» center Tel: (817723) between 9 and 2 in morning.



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Rabbis threaten Rabin

TEL AVIV (R) — Black-frocked rabbis in Israel's government threatened Wednesday to abandon Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin if he did not fire a sharp-tongued cabinet critic.

The ultra-religious Shas Party demanded Mr. Rabin sack political maverick Shulamit Aloni as education minister or lose its support in a parliamentary no-confidence vote expected in 12 to 13 days.

"Shas cannot vote confidence in the government in less than two weeks when the no-confidence motion is the matter of Shulamit Aloni," Shas Interior Minister Arye Deri told army radio, adding that nothing should be done until the removal would satisfy the party.

Mr. Rabin failed to defuse the row in separate meetings over two days with Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and with Ms. Aloni, leader of the leftist Meretz Bloc.

However, political sources in a country where coalition crises are frequent still predicted a solution before the vote.

Without the six Shas votes, Mr. Rabin's majority would shrink to a precarious 61-59 at a time when he hopes to broaden it with support from a rightist and another religious party.

Ms. Aloni, the most contentious figure in Mr. Rabin's Labour Party-led government from its start 100 days ago, is a 63-year-old former teacher and civil rights activist who for years in opposition vowed to fight "religious coercion."

Religious parties, which previously had greater influence over the education budget, deemed her unfit for the portfolio most responsible for shaping Israel's young generation. After taking power, she confirmed some of their worst fears.

Hamas working to expand links at PLO's expense

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — The militant Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas is trying to expand its links with Arab states and Iran at the expense of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), its main rival in the Israeli-occupied territories, a Hamas official said Tuesday.

"We believe we should have relations with all Arab and Islamic countries," said Mohammad Nazal, the Hamas representative in Jordan, where the group's main presence outside the occupied territories is believed to be based.

"We want to tell them that because we have no state and no government, if you want to deal with the Palestinians it is a mistake to deal with the PLO," he told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Nazal said Hamas, which has offices in Sudan, Yemen and Iran and operates unofficially in other Arab states including Jordan, has been improving ties with Gulf Arab countries.

Unlike the PLO, still trying to ease rifts with former Gulf allies, Hamas condemned Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Nazal declined to name the Gulf states and denied reports that the militant movement which sprung from the Palestinian "revival" in the occupied territories received aid from Iran apart from a Tehran office provided by the government.

"We have not received money from any government," he said, adding that funding came from merchants and investments inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip where Hamas, formally known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, operates underground.

Mr. Nazal said Hamas will hold its first official meeting in a year with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Khartoum during the

second week of November. He said they were waiting for an explanation from Mr. Arafat about comments he made to a meeting of Palestine National Council (PNC) members in Amman earlier this month.

"He said we are Zulus and made threatening statements against us," Mr. Nazal said. "We are waiting for a letter to explain what happened — we want to know if this is a policy of Fateh (Mr. Arafat's mainstream movement) or a policy of Mr. Arafat."

The row has cast a shadow over PLO-Hamas attempts to stop bloody internal clashes in the occupied territories, the main purpose of the meeting.

Hamas, estimated to have the support of between 25 per cent to 40 per cent of the Palestinians in the occupied areas, is not represented in the PLO because of a dispute over how many seats it should have in the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

It recently joined forces in an unlikely coalition of 10 hardline PLO factions and other groups to try to foil ongoing Middle East peace talks with Israel.

"The enemy is the Zionist enemy and it is not the PLO. We hope that in the future we will be a member of the PLO," Mr. Nazal said.

He warned the violence in the West Bank and Gaza would increase if the Palestinians signed an agreement with Israel for interim self-rule.

"We believe that the conflict between us and the Zionist enemy is not a border conflict — it is an existence conflict," said Mr. Nazal, who argues Hamas should not be labelled fundamentalist.

"If they give us a state we will accept that but we will continue to work to liberate all of Palestine without recognising Israel."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00	22:30
	News in French	News in Arabic	News in Arabic	U.S. Back	Civil War	News in English	Movie of the week				

PRAYER TIMES

6:28	6:57	11:24	14:34	17:05	18:22
Fajr	Ghaib (Ghaib)	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish Tel. 810740	Assumption of God Church, Tel. 627285	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	De la Salle Church Tel. 641757	Torrens Church Tel. 622356	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
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Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 62543	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773131	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77561	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 683326	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624 and 654932	Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	14/26
Aqaba	20/32
Djeddah	12/29
Jordan Valley	17/31

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	Dr. Ghazi Issa'i	752405
	Dr. Mohammad A'ash	752971
	Dr. Sami Marqas	776149
	Dr. Ghazi Zawahid	756111
	First pharmacy	661912
	Farid pharmacy	778336
	Al Azzam pharmacy	637053
	Natrolah pharmacy	623672
	Al Sabam pharmacy	636730
	Yasrab pharmacy	644943
	Shamsi pharmacy	637660
	Najla pharmacy	847632

IRBID:	Dr. Ahmad Bishara	273925
	Al Shara'a pharmacy	275825

ZARQA:	Dr. Khamsi Jabari	995405
	Ramzi pharmacy	995119

KARAK:	Dr. Nidal Mamam	(-)
	Ma'no pharmacy	352170

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	752, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	391228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	609800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complete	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Regin	623101
Abdullah Telephone	661101
Abdullah Telephone	771111
Radio Jordan	774111

HOSPITALS

Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Quetta Air Int. Airport	06-53500

AMMAN:	Hussein Medical Centre	81361322
	Rahel Maternity, J. Am.	6428116
	Abdel Maternity, J. Am.	644112
	Isabel Amman Maternity	642362
	Mulha, J. Amman	636140
	Palatine, Shamsi	664714
	Shamsi Hospital	667131
	University Hospital	845859
	Al-Mushtaq Hospital	6672757
	The Islamic, Abadi	6661257
	Al-AMI, Abadi	

Pharmacists take complaint to premier

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at his office Wednesday a delegation of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) to hear their complaints about the pharmacy profession in Jordan.

JPA President Husam Musmar asked for a higher level of cooperation between the association and the health ministry through the creation of a joint committee and cooperation, a revision of the current rates of locally produced drugs, and a practical plan for licensing new pharmacies in the country.

Mr. Musmar also demanded that the JPA law be amended and that a number of steps be taken in the course of the registration of medicines and the work of new

Minister discusses imported goods with local merchants

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf discussed Wednesday local merchants in various governorates to port sufficient quantities of goods required for the local market, but stressed that this should be done in coordination with the ministry.

The minister was speaking at a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce in Amman to discuss the supply of goods in the Balkan region. Saqqaf said that the ministry supports the private sector setting up special storage facilities to store sufficient amounts of meat and poultry.

Imported meat is of good quality and its prices are suitable for the income groups as well as for the minister noted. Agreement was reached with the minister of water and irrigation in

Russians warned against emigration

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Russian parliamentary delegation led by Head of the Council of the Federation of Russian Regions, Alexander Muradov, met Wednesday with the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament to discuss the relations between Russia and Jordan.

Mr. Muradov said at the meeting that relations between Jordan and Russia are continuous, developing and he stressed the role of the two countries' Parliaments in enhancing these relations in various fields.

He also underlined the King's role in the Middle East peace process, and his keen interest in resolving human rights.

Upper House Speaker Ahmad al-Najjar affirmed that Jordan and Russia enjoy strong relations, as was the case with the former Soviet Union.

37 firms invest in Romania

BUCHAREST (J.T.) — A total of 37 Jordanian firms have established trading relations with Romania which is opening the door for free enterprise, according to the Romanian development agency.

The agency said that Bucharest now offering facilities for trade with all countries and encouraging foreigners to invest in Romania.

Jordan ranks eighth on a list of foreign countries in terms of the volume of investments in Romania, noted the agency.

Amman host to AMK director

AMMAN — The Director of AMK Berlin International Fairs, J. Dreier, was a guest of honor at a press conference organized at the Amman Marriott Hotel in Amman Wednesday by Tillawi and Sons Company.

Both Mr. Dreier and Mr. Muhammad Tillawi underlined the importance of Amman as a site of Middle Eastern business and referred to Jordan's participation in various Berlin fairs including the Green Week which displayed agricultural products from various countries of the world.

Jordan, according to Mr. Dreier also takes part in fairs specializing in tourism and those playing leather and woolen

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shomran Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- Poster exhibition of the Beatles at the British Council.
- Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Ibrahim Al Shalabi at Alfa Art Gallery.



THEIR MAJESTIES AT THE NHF: His Majesty King Hussein visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Wednesday where he was briefed on the development programmes and projects carried out by the Foundation throughout the Kingdom.

His Majesty was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Their Majesties first toured the NHF Jordan Trade and Design Centre exhibition of crafts and home furnishings developed by Jordanian craftsmen with technical and financial assistance from the Centre. Under the umbrella of NHF National Handicrafts Development Project, the Centre has extended assistance to over 2000 craftsmen all over Jordan in craft design as well as in opening up new marketing outlets.

In welcoming Their Majesties, NHF Director In'am Mufli thanked the King and Queen for their support. She emphasized that NHF programmes and projects are based on an integrated and comprehensive approach to development. She stressed that the NHF's development philosophy as well as its projects and programmes implemented in various parts of Jordan. The Foundation's development approach has been recognized by several international agencies as a model for development projects throughout the region. Currently, the Foundation operates and oversees the implementation of over 35 projects and programmes in four major areas: Family and community, culture and heritage, children and education, NHF's long-term development philosophy emphasizes self-reliance, self help and self management.

Water resources to be discussed in Rome

AMMAN (J.T.) — Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kassar said Wednesday that he plans to submit a report on the water situation in Jordan to a conference on water management in countries of the Mediterranean area due to be held in Rome later this month.

Mr. Kassar, who is leading the Jordanian delegation to the three day meeting said that his report focuses on how the country utilizes its water resources with special attention to irrigation.

The minister said that the report covers aspects such as the use of water for domestic and industrial purposes, the existing water networks in Jordan, problems of maintenance, and financial and administrative matters related to irrigation operations.

The three-day meeting, which is arranged by the Italian government, will cover all aspects of water management including: sanitary systems, dams, irrigation rationalising water consumption and spreading awareness among the farmers of Mediterranean countries about efficient water usage.

Mr. Kassar said that the experience of Italy, Morocco, and Spain in managing their water resources will be reviewed. During the Rome meeting scheduled for Oct. 28, he said a



King Talal Dam — Watering the Jordan Valley

General charter on the use of water for the countries in the region will be signed which aims at further enhancing regional and international cooperation in water-related matters.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Jordan, Indonesia talk trade

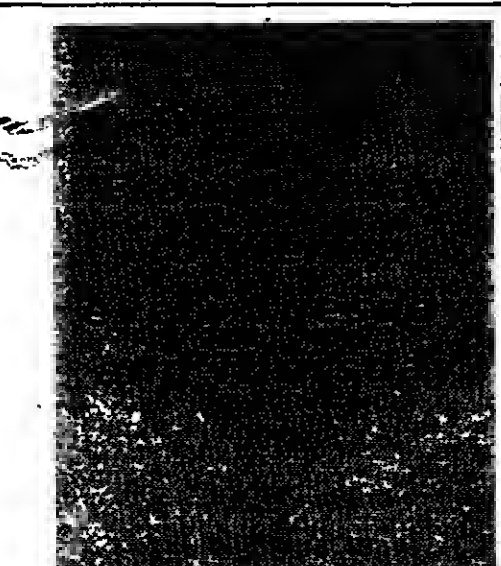
AMMAN (J.T.) — Indonesia and Jordan opened talks in Amman Wednesday to promote economic and trade relations. A statement from the Ministry of Industry and Trade said. The two sides discussed increasing the volume of exchanged goods and joint economic ventures.

The statement said that the talks led by Ministry Secretary General Marwan Awad and Indonesian Trade Department Director Kamal Jamil discussed ways of benefiting Indonesian products from Jordan's geographical location and its proximity to the European and Russian markets. The two sides discussed preparations for a meeting by the Jordanian Indonesian Joint Committee due to take place in the coming month.

Mr. Awad said that Jordan was deeply satisfied with its trade links with Indonesia, noting that Jordanian phosphate and potash continue to be sold in Indonesian markets.

In May last year, Jordan and Indonesia agreed in principle on setting up a plan to produce phosphate based phosphoric acid which would be marketed in Jordan and Indonesia with the surplus going to other countries.

Indonesia has also agreed to import additional quantities of Jordanian potash and phosphate and to take part in international trade fairs which would encourage the exchange of visits by trade groups to bolster cooperation in trade and industry.



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66 70 28, 63 62 32

Welcome To AUSTRIAN

Qattan accuses Dughmi of attempting to influence slander case

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The defendant in a case alleging slander, insult and abuse of Parliament Wednesday implicitly accused the deputy speaker of the Lower House of attempting to influence the court trying the case.

Lyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), also suggested that comments made by Deputy Abdul Karim Dughmi at a press conference Sunday could be aimed at fuelling differences between Parliament and government.

It was the latest salvo in a battle of words being fought inside and outside court, including the media, stemming from the indictment by the House of a former minister in an alleged corruption case in August.

"The honourable deputy, Mr. Dughmi, had no right to accuse me of sending a letter to the House containing slander, insult and abuse of Parliament since the case is already before a court of law," Mr. Qattan told reporters.

"Instead of letting the court make its ruling, Mr. Dughmi seems to have tried and convicted me," he said, addressing a press conference he held to "counter Mr. Dughmi's comments."

The case, filed at the Court of

First Instance by House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, is one of several borne out of protest letters and telegrams sent to the House over its decision on Aug. 4 to indict former Minister of Public Works Mamdouh Hawamdeh of corruption in awarding a multi-million dollar highway project in 1987.

The letter that Mr. Dughmi referred to in his comments Sunday is the basis of the case. It criticised the House for seeking legal action against Hawamdeh supporters who sent telegrams protesting the indictment of the former minister.

Citing the people's freedom of expression, the three-page letter said: "This new approach of 'parliamentary dictatorship' which your esteemed council seems to be adopting will certainly prevent the newspapers and media from evaluating Parliament and will certainly make the people afraid of expressing their opinion about the conduct of members of Parliament and their announced slogans and programmes."

"This is an action which implies the dangerous transformation of Parliament itself into a suppressive institution that tries the people without their being able to try their own Parliament," it added.

The trial of the case begins

Oct. 26. Prominent lawyer Taher Hikmat, a former minister, is defending Mr. Qattan.

Addressing his press conference Wednesday, Mr. Qattan said it was his right to deny the charges outside court if Mr. Dughmi was justified in accusing him beyond the framework of legal proceedings.

"I did not slander, insult or abuse Parliament," he said. "As a constituent myself, I will not condone such attacks on Parliament which is made up of our own elected deputies. What I did was to protest against arbitrary action against people who were exercising their freedom of opinion and expression as granted to them in the constitution."

Mr. Qattan also argued that Mr. Dughmi, a lawyer himself, should have known better not to make any comments on any aspects of the case, including suggestions that the RCC director, being a government official, could be acting on behalf of the executive authority.

"By bringing in my official post into the affair, Mr. Dughmi appears to be trying to create problems between the legislative and executive authorities," said Mr. Qattan.

Mr. Dughmi had said that Mr. Qattan, by including his title as

director of the RCC in his letter and sending it through a facsimile machine installed at the centre, had either "abused" his office or was "reflecting the point of view of the government."

Mr. Qattan rejected both charges saying: "Before and everything else, I am citizen of this country. Does being a government employee mean that a citizen cannot express his opinion if he finds something amiss in the society?"

Mr. Qattan said he had not heard from the Ministry of Culture, which has jurisdiction over the RCC, in connection with a letter sent to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker by House Speaker Arabiyat asking that action be taken against the RCC director. In turn, the prime minister has asked the minister of culture to handle the matter.

Mr. Qattan noted that Jordanian law says that "no administrative decision" be taken against a government employee on the basis of charges that are also raised in a lawsuit before the court rules on the issue.

The RCC director also questioned why Mr. Dughmi asserted that Parliament would not have reacted the way it did had the letter sent to the House appeared in newspapers instead of a direct communication with Parliament.

Greens warn against unclear environmental policy

IRBID (Petra) — The President of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution Wednesday warned against the absence of a clear environmental policy in the country, noting that such a failure could be detrimental to the country's future.

Mr. Ahmad Obeidat told a seminar on problems facing the environment in the Irbid region that a lack of a clear environmental policy could encourage certain people to pursue their own selfish needs without any regard to national interests. Mr. Obeidat was addressing a day long seminar organised by the society in cooperation with the Friedrich Neumann Foundation at Yarmouk University Alumni Club.

He outlined the society's various activities over the past three years saying that its main aims entail encouraging awareness among members of the public concerning means of protecting the environment.

"The society hopes that collective efforts would result in a cleaner atmosphere and a safer environment for the future generations," said Mr. Obeidat.

What remains to be seen from the government is a real and serious policy backed by responsible citizens on the safety of their environment.



PETRA PHOTOS ON DISPLAY: A unique collection of photographs of Petra will be exhibited for sale to the general public in the lobby of the Amman Marriott Hotel from October 19 through October 24, according to the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR). The photographs have been donated by a group of friends and colleagues of the late Kenneth Russell and all proceeds from sales will be given to the Kenneth Russell Memorial Trust, which provides scholarships for higher education in archaeology and related fields for residents of Jordan; travel scholarships to students of any nationality who wish to conduct archaeological and related research in Jordan; and assistance for the education of the children of the blind Jordanian.

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هاتف: ٦٣٦٨٨٨

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Media's changing role

THE MEDIA in Jordan are increasingly striving to define its role in a democratising and changing society. While the task is not easy, the leaderships, officials and journalists themselves, seem to be all determined to chart a more sound and progressive course for the dissemination of information. In the last few days and indeed over the past several months the role of the media has been reaffirmed by the prime minister, the information minister and the executive of the journalists association. Sharif Zeid expressed his support for the association, and Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif expanded on the role of the media in a democratic society. The president of the Press Association, Suleiman Qadiah, meanwhile called on journalists to strive for impartiality in their coverage of the Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami case currently being heard at the State Security Court.

There are many questions, however, that need to be addressed. Chief among these is how good and progressive our new press and publications law will be. Most of the new law's articles have been endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament this summer. The journalists themselves are divided on the issue. Most think the law is not democratic enough and many contend that it has not received the attention or the extensive debate it deserves at the House. Another question that needs to be addressed is media coverage of court proceedings. How far should the media explore into the case? Should it confine itself to only what goes on inside the courtroom? Are judges and witnesses actually influenced by news reports? And if so by how much? Isn't it the role of the media to educate and inform?

The same, and more, questions could be asked about the media's relations with the government and Parliament. While the search for answers to these questions continues, it remains the responsibility of the journalists themselves and their association to create a mechanism by which the media can probe into the issues and present answers. Whatever these results are the objective and the principle that must be upheld is that the truth must be looked for and told.

There is little truth to the contention that Jordan and Jordanians are not prepared for the full and unlimited freedom of choice, expression and democracy. That should not be a foregone conclusion. The right of the media to report, analyse and comment on news and events is, of course, only a part of the overall freedoms that we are talking about. The rest of the society in which we live has to do its part in the search for the truth. Everybody is therefore called upon to participate in the debate that aims to find the formula most suitable to us.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A NEW round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations is being held in Washington, with the Arab parties more pessimistic about reaching a settlement in the light of the previous sessions during which Israel had shown intransigence and in the absence of any flexibility on the part of the Israeli government, said Al Dastour daily Wednesday. All the feelings of optimism over the election of the Labour government in Israel have disappeared into thin air due to the obstinacy shown by the Rabin government, which is acting more or less like the Likud government, inside the occupied Arab lands and at the peace negotiating table, said the daily. For many Arabs, the seventh round starting Wednesday is the last of the current series of meetings because the peace process, which began with George Bush and James Baker, is bound to end with their ouster from office in the coming month, said the daily. The Israelis are expected to stall and to delay taking any moves towards serious discussions with the Arabs until the new administration has taken office, added the daily. Therefore, said the paper, the seventh round of talks is more likely to end without any concrete progress towards the implementation of U.N. resolutions which guarantee a lasting peace in the region. The paper said that though the Arabs realise this fact, they are keen on pursuing efforts to maintain the negotiations and avoiding a deadlock, hoping that the new administration in Washington would give the peace process further momentum.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said it seems that the American people have finally decided to elect Bill Clinton as president of the United States and that President Bush will fall in the coming presidential election. Fahd Al Fanek said that the Arabs should have nothing to fear about Mr. Clinton and should not wish that Mr. Bush would remain in the White House so that he would give the Palestinians their rights because this is a mere illusion. The writer referred to Bill Clinton's pledges to Israel and said that they were given to appease the Jews and win their votes in the coming election. However, Mr. Clinton had already announced that he would pursue the peace process between the Arabs and the Israelis, something which is sought by the Arab states. Mr. Clinton should not be taken seriously when he says that he would move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and observers should realise that Mr. Clinton would only seek what is best for America. He said that Mr. Bush is influenced by an Iraqi complex and was responsible for the aggression on the Iraqi people, leaving the American economy in trouble. By contrast Mr. Clinton has not smeared his hands with Arab blood and has not pledged to be a tool in the hands of world Zionism. The writer said that Arabs in America could help Mr. Clinton win and pave the ground for a new chapter in the relations between America and the Arab Nation.

Leaders of all G7 countries are in political trouble

By Patrick Worsnip

LONDON — Leaders of all the world's major economic powers are in deep political trouble, victims of recession and the end of the cold war.

The go-getting conservatism of the 1980s exemplified by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has finally run out of steam and their successors are struggling to survive.

Unless U.S. opinion polls are dramatically wrong, President George Bush looks almost certain to be defeated by Democrat Bill Clinton in elections in two weeks' time.

Britain's Premier John Major has no electoral nemesis bearing down on him, but his government has been badly weakened by a sterling crisis, disputes over the European Community and a humiliating climbdown over a plan to close coal-mines.

For a wide variety of reasons, the governments of all the other members of the group of seven top industrial democracies — Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Canada — also their backs to the wall.

Britain's Independent newspaper this week blamed a "disenchantment that has swept the democratic world since the demise of communism."

At the start of the 1980s, the United States and Britain led a rightward swing that swept away

the liberal thinking of the previous decade. It combined cuts in taxes and social welfare with robust defences against a then threatening Soviet Union.

The rightist trend spread to Germany, where the Christian Democrats displaced the Social Democrats in 1982, Canada, where the Conservative Party took over from the Liberals in 1984, and briefly to France, where right-wing parties ruled from 1986-88.

In foreign affairs, Western conservatism was so successful that it wiped out the Soviet Union which, unable to compete in a new round of the arms race, collapsed at the end of 1991.

Economically, however, the West eventually slumped into a new cycle of recession. "Reaganomics" built up the largest budget and trade deficits in U.S. history while Thatcherism stoked a ruinous credit boom in Britain.

The successors of Reagan and Thatcher are now reaping the bitter harvest of those policies.

Mr. Bush's cold war and Gulf war victories could not compensate for soaring unemployment at home. Instead, the "peace dividend" has hit the U.S. defence industry, and a perceived indifference to domestic affairs has blighted Mr. Bush's reelection campaign.

In Britain, Mr. Major's Conservatives scraped through to a

new election victory last April, but their prestige has sunk to a new low following a forced exit last month from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the latest row over coal.

Last week's abrupt announcement that over half Britain's pits would be shut with the loss of 30,000 jobs alienated even the pro-conservative Middle Classes and had to be reversed.

One problem has been that while the collapse of communism in the former Eastern Bloc has discredited left-wing policies, Western publics no longer see the need for tough, right-wing governments either.

This has been particularly true of Italy, where the Christian Democrats have been dominant for over 40 years on the strength of a supposed threat to democracy from Western Europe's largest communist party.

One legacy of their rule — a colossal public sector deficit — is now having to be reined in through swingeing welfare cuts, while the rise of regional parties in Italy's affluent north is threatening the country's entire political system.

Communism's fall hit Germany with the costs of reunification with the east. High interest rates and hugely unpopular tax hikes have sent Chancellor Helmut Kohl's popularity reeling

although one recent poll shows a slight recovery.

Economic problems, especially joblessness, have also damaged France's ruling Socialists, who face likely defeat in elections next March, although socialist President Francois Mitterrand, 76, looks resolved to carry on until his term expires in 1995.

Mr. Mitterrand called an ill-advised referendum last month on the European Community's Maastricht Treaty, which was won only narrowly and provoked a European currency crisis. That and the disclosure that he has cancer led rivals to hope he may resign.

Canada's conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has said he will consider his future if, as seems likely, the government loses next Monday's referendum on its latest attempt at a constitutional accord with restive French-speaking Quebec.

But once again, the background is economic — prolonged recession, an unpopular free trade agreement with the United States, and a hated sales tax.

Even economic titan Japan is suffering from recession, but the latest political ructions there centre on a corruption scandal which forced the resignation last week of Shin Kanemaru, "king-maker" in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Iraqi author attacks 'inept' war leaders

By Marie Colvin

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi author is about to publish an insider's account of the Gulf war which contains unprecedented criticism of the country's leadership, claiming that its inept diplomacy and ignorance about the United States contributed to Iraq's disastrous defeat.

The new book by Sa'ad Bazaz, called "The Gulf War and the One After," is starting in two ways: it reveals secret, high-level discussions in a country where anyone revealing information is considered a traitor; and it discusses the failings of Iraq's leaders.

Mr. Bazaz, editor of Al Jumhuriya newspaper and a confidant of the Iraqi leadership, is no dissident; he never overtly criticises Saddam Hussein. But he writes that Iraqi officials lacked experience and knowledge of the West and were prone to conspiracy theories. "The Iraqi officials were incapable of organising such an enormous task," he said.

That may be regarded as fair criticism in a democracy, but in Iraq critics of the regime are as rare as men without Saddam moustaches. Mr. Bazaz said he took the risk because he believes the isolation of the leadership could lead the country to further disasters, as the title of his book implies. He said a "second generation" of journalists and intellectuals was chafing at the restrictions and would support him.

The book, to be published in Arabic and English later this year, is being prepared amid babbings of change in Baghdad. In recent weeks, articles by Barzan Al Tikriti, Saddam Hussein's powerful half-brother, in Al Jumhuriya, and by Uday Hussein, Saddam Hussein's son, in Babil newspaper, have called for freedom of speech and more political liberty.

Such articles are countenanced by Saddam Hussein, and may result in little realistic change. But they are evidence that the leadership is aware of the dissatisfaction with the absolute control of the Ba'ath party.

Mr. Bazaz reveals that Saddam Hussein issued a secret order on Feb. 23, 1991, for all Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait — the day before the allies launched their ground offensive. The withdrawal order was broadcast on Feb. 26 by Baghdad radio. That revelation helps explain one of the mysteries of the war: why, after months of fortifying Kuwait, the army offered little resistance. Allied commanders were astounded by the speed and ease of their advance, attributing the Iraqi collapse to 40 days of days of bombing, lack of supplies and low morale.

But according to Mr. Bazaz, the best units had begun withdrawing 24 hours before the

ground assault; those remaining knew Saddam Hussein had given up and were unwilling to fight. The early withdrawal order ensured the survival of most of the Republican Guard, which went on to crush rebellions in the Kurdish north and Shiite south of Iraq.

Mr. Bazaz writes that Iraq's mistakes began long before the Gulf war. After interviews with most of Iraq's leaders, he says they misinterpreted Washington's intentions and then reacted to American moves with injured pride. The leadership believed America was willing to see Iraq become the main regional power. Saddam Hussein thought Washington would give him responsibility to negotiate a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, to protect the Gulf and to take the lead in setting oil prices.

Mr. Bazaz says this analysis was based on a deluded, naive assessment of the respect that America would accord Iraq after its victory over Iran. When things did not go as Iraq expected, the leadership reverted to conspiracy theories and concluded that Washington was trying to undermine the regime.

The ensuing spiral of confrontation culminated in the invasion of Kuwait. Iraq had intended to set up a puppet government under a 'dissident Kuwaiti' colonel, and then withdraw. But the Kuwaitis found no support among his countrymen.

One the eve of the allied attack, the leadership considered a frontal assault into Saudi Arabia, a guerrilla war in Kuwait city or withdrawal. Mr. Bazaz says Saddam Hussein decided on withdrawal for three reasons: a third party had warned there would be a nuclear strike on Iraq if he attacked Saudi Arabia; Iraq's lines in Kuwait could not easily be turned to offensive action; and thousands of Iranian infiltrators had started to move across the undefended border, leaving Baghdad exposed.

In addition, Tareq Aziz, then foreign minister, said Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, had assured him that if Iraqi troops withdrew, they would not be attacked and sanctions against Iraq would be lifted. "I want to make sure — will sanctions be lifted?" Mr. Bazaz quotes Mr. Aziz as asking the Soviet leader. "Of course, of course," was Gorbachev's response. "The Soviets betrayed us," concludes Mr. Bazaz.

The final days were disastrous. "At first the retreat was orderly," Mr. Bazaz says. "After that, well, the whole world knows what happened. Of course, they were slaughtered." — The Sunday Times



Egypt's old private sector balks at free market

By John West
Reuters

MAHALLA AL KUBRA, EGYPT — Free-market reforms ending 30 years of central planning ought to be music in the ears of private businesses in Egypt. But not in Mahalla Al Kubra.

Hundreds of factory owners in this old industrial city are so fed up with economic reform they are considering shutting down and laying off tens of thousands of workers to put pressure on the government at a delicate stage in its reform programme.

Like a large part of Egypt's private sector, these textile industrialists not only survived but flourished under state control of the economy.

They developed close ties with government officials and thrived off import bans, subsidised raw materials, interest rate ceilings and government contracts.

As Egypt implements reforms to reverse 30 years of central planning, the textile industrialists now face the jungle of the free market as nervously as public sector colleagues facing privatisation. They are doing their best to delay the change.

"The government is moving too fast, costs have gone up, buying power has weakened and we can't borrow money to restructure because the interest rates are so high," said Hussein Abu Amo, managing director of a textile factory employing 120 workers.

Until last year Egyptian state monopolies provided high-grade cotton to Mahalla's textile factories at under half the world market price and electricity at little more than a tenth of the real cost. The price of cotton has risen by

about 50 per cent since the start of last year and the price of electricity by about 100 per cent. But both are still below market prices and will go higher.

The 630-member league of textile factory owners has said its members will close down their factories and lay off more than 30,000 workers later this month if a dispute with tax authorities is not resolved. The government staved off an earlier deadline by meeting some of their demands.

Officials and economists say the tax dispute masked wider concerns about trade liberalisation and a deep-seated fear that the state, which has been the main business partner for many of these companies, is now about to abandon them.

"I think the people who are really holding up reform are the private sector," said Heba Hendoussa, a professor of economics and consultant to the World Bank.

"They say 'you made all these promises about protection and now you're breaking up our markets,'" she added.

Most factories use old machinery unable to finish high-grade raw cotton into high-quality end products and do no design themselves, choosing patterns for clothes to be worn in Egypt from catalogues bought from Europe or eastern Asia.

As in the old Eastern Europe under communism, firms often focus on production rather than consumer demand, running up stocks and spinning a complex web of credit between themselves and state company suppliers. Western donors, who have

promised Egypt they will waive debts worth \$10 billion if it carries out the reforms, are concerned that private industrialists and public officials alike can keep delaying reforms.

They could deliberately reinforce the government's worries about the social impact of reforms and argue for gradual change.

Cairo has made slow progress on privatisation and is locked in a polite dispute with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank about its timetable for change.

Some industrialists complain they now have the worst of both worlds. Their costs have soared from subsidy cuts but they have yet to see any real easing of the stifling bureaucracy.

Abu Kamar said his managers had to spend two thirds of their time obtaining licences, dealing with regulations and cultivating local officials.

"We are not against liberalisation but it must be on all parts...I shouldn't be wasting my time with things like this," he said.

Employers cannot fire workers except for disciplinary offences and local authorities put pressure on them to take on ex-servicemen or the sons of Egyptian war heroes regardless of their qualifications for the job.

They sometimes have to organise amenities like sewerage and running water themselves, spending months petitioning various layers of local and regional bureaucracy for permission to spend money on services which they should be receiving free from the state.

Bush scores points in final debate but needs a miracle

By Irwin Arieff

WASHINGTON — President George Bush scored some badly needed points in his final confrontation with Democrat Bill Clinton and Ross Perot, but did not appear to pull off the miracle he needed.

Mr. Bush was sharper and quicker on his feet in the third presidential debate, giving easily as good as he got and repeatedly driving home the points he wanted to make.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, was somewhat flatter in his delivery than he had been at last week's debate in Richmond, Virginia, and was clearly put on the defensive by Mr. Bush's aggressive attacks on his record in his home state of Arkansas.

But the Republican scored no knockout punches and the Democrat got off his own share of zingers.

As a result, Mr. Bush got a needed shot in the arm that will certainly help him through the final two weeks of the election campaign but was probably not enough to reverse Mr. Clinton's formidable lead in the polls.

Mr. Perot, too, was feisty, improving on his performance in the last debate where his hackneyed homilies grated on voters.

The Texas billionaire went after Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton with vigour, but one still has to wonder what Mr. Perot really seeks from his unorthodox campaign and whether he still believes — despite his statements on Monday — that he can really win.

Bush was running the risk of reviving the "wimp" image that so damaged him early in the 1988 campaign.

Before each of the two preceding debates, aides had predicted the president would rip Mr. Clinton apart and shake up the race, laying the groundwork for a last-minute reelection victory on Nov. 3.

But each time, he was hesitant and deferential. Far from going on the offensive, he convinced many of his supporters that he had mentally given up and was bracing for defeat.

In the third encounter, however, he showed some spunk. Nonetheless, a post-debate poll by ABC News hinted that Mr. Bush's performance was not so strong as to change many minds.

The network's survey of 710 viewers found 36 per cent picking Mr. Clinton as the winner, 26 per cent Mr. Perot and just 21 per cent Mr. Bush, with 12 per cent judging the encounter a tie.

But the president's performance was certain to give cheer to his supporters and keep alive their hopes for a dramatic turnaround in Republican fortunes at a time when many analysts are predicting a Democratic landslide on election day.

By repeatedly returning to the theme that Arkansas ranked "near the very bottom" by many standards, Mr. Bush was able to force Mr. Clinton to devote much of his time to defending his state rather than hammer away at Mr. Bush's own performance in office, as Mr. Clinton managed

last week in Richmond.

Adding to the Arkansas governor's woes on that count was Mr. Perot, who dismissed the "irrelevant" Mr. Clinton's experience managing his state government.

But Mr. Perot also went after Mr. Bush during the evening, accusing the president at one point of tacitly encouraging Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to seize northern Kuwait.

And at other times, Mr. Bush suffered from a "Johnny one-note" tone, hitting Mr. Clinton over and over on his perception of a "pattern" of waffling by Mr. Clinton — a pattern Mr. Bush said, raised the question of whether voters could trust him.

Mr. Clinton was able to counter that line of attack by recalling Mr. Bush's 1980 reference to Ronald Reagan's economic plan as "woodoo economics" — a plan Mr. Bush later endorsed when he became Mr. Reagan's running mate later that year.

Mr. Bush aides said in advance the president knew he could not get too negative or risk a backlash. So Mr. Bush remained "presidential" and went out of his way to tell the audience his approach was "not dirty campaigning, because he (Clinton) has been talking about my record for half a year, here."

The statement raises the question why Mr. Bush waited so long to criticise his chief rival's record when he was so far behind in the polls, and whether his performance on Monday was too late to change his fate on Nov. 3. — Reuters

Weekender

Hope born out of despair and poverty

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

☆☆ A little girl knelt silently on the floor in front of a small circle carrying her name. Her eyes twinkled and widened in fascination as the teacher demonstrated a story about scarecrows and figs.

☆☆ An old man's smile brightened his weather-beaten face as he proudly held up his frail body gnawed at by tuberculosis.

☆☆ An old, veiled woman with a tattooed chin held a pencil and slowly copied words from the blackboard and then sneaked a furtive glance at the notebook of the younger girl sitting next to her.

☆☆ Women stood in lines waiting for their weekly food rations while their children clutched at their embroidered black thoubes and looked around inquisitively.

☆☆ A little boy leaned over and whispered in his classmate's ear and then giggled. In front of them lay a table full of modern games. Behind them a window frames scene from a desert.



The traditional carpet weaving and city dwellers. One of the skill has been preserved by the women of Wadi Rum with plans to market these products to tourists accompanying the Princess

FLASHING IMAGES of southern Jordanian villages and their inhabitants, pictures of wrinkled faces embracing young eager ones and prayers filled with simple aspirations and an abundance of faith. They all come together to tell a story of hope born out of despair and

poverty. Al Humaineih, Dibbet Hanout, Al Disseh and Guwairah are places that are buried deep in the harsh environment of Wadi Rum. Their residents' lives are touched by the same contradictions which are typical of the landscape surrounding

them. Shifting sands and solid rocks merge together to create a photographer's heaven, a writer's inspiration but a nightmarish reality for those struggling to make a living.

And to the occasional bypasser the picture could remain one which would attract students of anthropology or tourists who appreciate the brown and pink images of this area after they are saturated with the green valleys of their own countries. But to the residents of these villages the beauty of the place has another face that is menacing. Those who want to come to their help not only have to be blessed with great dedication but also a lot of love.

A person who has shown these qualities and has managed to make a difference is Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Through her guidance and close supervision, the Queen Alia Fund has been able to infiltrate the seemingly invincible influence of the canyon of Wadi Rum by providing the people there a reason and the mechanism to work towards a better future.

Although the fund could provide a list of statistics which could substantiate the need for its presence in those areas and the benefits that it has been able to extend to its residents, the greatest evidence is the people's own assessment of those efforts.

"She (Princess Basma) is the only one who doesn't lose faith in us and continues helping," an old woman — cradling her grandson while sitting at the front steps of the health centre where her son is a doctor — told the Jordan Times last week.

The fund has started several programmes to give food to poor families on a weekly basis and distributes medium sized cardboard boxes which contain, among other things, rice, lentils and milk. The food solves the most important problem on the list of priorities in that area — nutrition.

But even this apparently simple task has faced various difficulties. When the fund first started distributing rice in a remote village in the area, its workers discovered that the women did not know what rice was or how to cook it. "We had to send women from Aqaba to teach them how to cook rice," a fund worker told the Jordan Times.

But although food was obviously appreciated by the residents of these areas, they were even more impressed by the sense of stability that the Princess has been able to impart to them through her own dedication and the fund's continued perseverance to introduce positive change on all fronts.

Many of the villagers see the fund's centres as pillars of

continuity and a guarantee against difficult times. They resent hints that they might have become too dependent on the help of others and pledge that they are ready to make contributions after they have learned how to begin.

"Maybe we are asking for too much now but it is because we are beginning with nothing," the mayor of the small town of Guwairah told an audience of ambassadors and journalists accompanying Princess Basma on a field visit to Wadi Rum. "When we learn enough we will start giving and not just taking."

The fund's projects in these areas are intended to pave the way towards development by teaching the residents the skills necessary to change their status from illiteracy to literacy and from unemployment to income generating projects. Children are provided with colour, variety and a foundation for creativity, and women are given the keys to their relative independence and free thinking.

In the Guwairah Centre, kindergartens bring girls and boys together to introduce them to a world that is alien to them but one that is filled with adventure and imagination. Older children are also given special attention through after school clubs that allow them to experiment with artistic hobbies or computer skills.

In the conservative atmosphere of these areas the fund has also given women an opportunity to find themselves away from the constraints of the traditional patriarchal system which dominates underdeveloped areas. When a journalist asked the mayor of Guwairah, who was speaking on behalf of the women of the village, to let them speak for themselves the women clapped and laughed openly.

"These centres provide many women in these areas with the only opportunity to escape the closed society they have been brought up in," said, a fund worker, who operates closely with the women in the villages.

At the end of the day-long trip to Wadi Rum and the places hidden within its grooves, it becomes apparent that enough social and economic change has been affected to bring this part of the south out into the larger society of the Kingdom. Perhaps it still remains strewn with images that have to be eradicated before this society can be described as a healthy one but it is obvious that someone is working to help it along and give it a fighting chance.

All photographs
by
Youssef Al 'Allan



The Badia Police patrol the harsh terrain at Wadi Rum



Ages apart: A grandmother holds her grandson who is now afforded more opportunities for a brighter future



From illiteracy to a better life: A woman learns to write in one of the fund's special classes



Former Prime Minister and Member of Parliament Taher Al Masri, ambassadors of the United States, Canada, Italy and Britain, accompanied the Princess on her tour of Wadi Rum villages. The picture shows an after school recreation centre established by the fund



A tribal sheikh briefs Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on the conditions in his village. At the end of the meeting the Princess announced that the Queen Alia Fund will establish a centre there



Stones chiseled by forces of nature create a picturesque view for tourists who arrive at Wadi Rum in busses every day. Yet the picture presents a different and harsher reality for the inhabitants of the area



Wadi Rum in busses every day. Yet the picture presents a different and harsher reality for the inhabitants of the area



Village women receive their weekly ration of free food donated by UNICEF

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 22

8:30 Uncle Buck

Cub Fever

Uncle Buck's comments on T.V. result in the clubs losing the game and everybody hates Buck.

9:10 Civil Wars

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Farrell For The People

Starring: Valerie Harper and Ed O'Neill

Farrell, the young female prosecutor, succeeds in indicting a famous novelist for murdering a waiter.

Friday, Oct. 23

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

9:10 Nouni And Manni

Hamso, an influential man tries to marry a beautiful widow, who refuses him because she likes her husband's friend Harold. The widow's two sons do not believe that Harold is a killer.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Antagonists

11:00 Mr. Bean

Saturday, Oct. 24

8:30 America's Funniest



Richard Wilson as Reverend Green in *Candida* on Wednesday at 9:10.

Home Videos

9:00 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Into The Badlands

Starring: Bruce Dern and Mariel Hemingway

An old bounty hunter who never fulfils his dream of having a horse farm of his own.

Sunday, Oct. 25

8:30 Coach

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 Midnight Caller

10:20 When The Lion Roars

Wednesday, Oct. 28

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:00 Wednesday Forum

9:10 Cineado

A Bridge Too Far

Mrs. Peacock is playing host to the Arlington gentry at a grand cocktail party, and taking the opportunity to show off the trophy she and Ms. Scarlett won in a local bridge competition. Colonel Mustard and Professor Plum look on, bored by their boasting. But Plum, the joker of this pack, has a surprise for the dull duo — a pair of bridge fanatics who he introduces as Mr. and Mrs. Hope. The Hopes persuade Peacock and Scarlett to play a rubber for some rather high stakes, and the Reverend Green sees the promised funds for his church roof disappear before his eyes. Who are Mr. and Mrs. Hope and why are they so good at bridge? And will Mrs. Peacock swallow her pride and admit defeat, before she gambles away Ms. Scarlett's heirlooms? Meanwhile, Mrs. White takes another sip of champagne.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Coura Breakout

A true story of what happened at Cowra POW camp for Japanese soldiers during World War II. The facts were not revealed for more than 30 years.

Really human

By Samayyah A.H.

"Really Human" isn't how you are made," said the old man. "It's a thing that happens to you. It may be contagious but that's very rare! When people love you for a long, long time, not just to spend time with, but really love you, then you become really human."

"Does it hurt?" asked the skinny child. His eyes twinkled.

"Sometimes," said the old man, for he was always honest. "When you are really human you don't mind being hurt. You start to bear pain, to accept it!"

"Does it happen all at once like being wound up?" asked the child, confused, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the old man. "It

takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily or have sharp edges or who have to be carefully kept. You need to be tough. Generally by the time you are really human, most of your hair has fallen off, your eyes have dropped out, you get loose in the joints, very shabby, your bones ache, you hesitate before walking down a flight of stairs," the old man smiled and then continued: "When you spend more time looking for things than you spend time using them after you have found them. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are really human, you can't be ugly except to people who don't understand. But once you're really human you can't become heartless again. It lasts for ever."

The writer is a student of English literature at the University of Jordan.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- To kill his free time, an American traffic policeman could catch a 35-pound fish while on duty in one of California towns because he was not engaged in anything due to strict traffic control.
- There are thirty dead people for every one living on earth.
- Some multi-storey car parks in Chicago play discriminating pieces of music in each floor so as to make it easy for car owners to recognise the one in which they have already left their cars!
- Koo, tah-we-cots-oh-lal-e-hoo-la-shar, a Pawnee Indian, clocked by American army officers with stop watches, ran the mile in 3 minutes, 58 seconds in 1876. Modern runners never equalled that record until 1954.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Familiar Phrases

- We hope you will honour us for supper. *Ma'itirajja innak bitsharrifna lil'asha.*
- Will you not share our suk? *Ma bitrid salt takol ma'ana?*
- Will you not stay a little to lunch with us? *Ma bitrid tiftal shwai'ye tit-gadda ma'ana?*
- I am obliged by your kindness, but I cannot. Don't take it amiss? *Mamnun fadlak, lakin makdarsh, la twakhidni.*
- I have come a moment to see you. *Jit labza ta shufak.*
- What? Will you leave us? *Kif, biddak iddashirna?*
- I can't help it. It's late. *Ma biddishay, ta'shabart.*

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Science

- Is it true that there is a spot in the eye where you can't see?
- Where is the place where the date changes?
- Of what is dry ice made?
- What is disorientation?
- For what is Baumé scale used?
- Can a rainbow be seen at night?
- How long have people been using buttons?

MY NAME, this is what it means

- BADI:** One of the most magnificent names of Alla; plump; fresh wine
- TAMER:** Plenty of dates, i.e. boon and welfare.
- JABER:** The reformer; bread.
- BATEM:** The ruler; the judge.

See Solutions on page D

JOWHAR: A precious stone.

HAIDAR: The lion; short.

KHALIL: The faithful friend; emancipated, poor.

JOKES AND CRACKS

A woman, trying to persuade her daughter to wear her hair in a shorter style, lost the argument when her daughter exclaimed: "But, mother, my boy-friend wears 'his' hair longer than that!"

A golfer attempted to induce a friend to join his foursome one day.

"I'd love to," said the friend, "but I promised my wife..."

"Oh, come on," the golfer persisted, "forget your wife. Are you a man or a mouse?"

"I'm a man," the friend replied. "My wife is afraid of mice."

Sent to interview Picasso, a female reporter asked him why mature men generally look younger than mature women.

Picasso thought for a minute, then explained: "It's because a woman of 40 is usually 50."

PUZZLES

1. HALF AND HALF:

The first word below consists of the first three letters of a fruit and the last three letters of a vegetable, while the second word contains the first three letters of the vegetable and the last three of the fruit. See if you can straighten them out.

REMEDY

RECALL

2. GET THE ANIMALS OUT OF THE CAGE!

Starting from one corner, find a route, passing through every square once, in any direction except diagonally, which will spell the names of four animals.

I	G	E	R	E	E	O
T	E	P	E	L	L	P
N	T	O	P	N	T	A
A	E	L	H	A	D	R

He never wrote a Linda song

By E. Yaghi

Keith made a living in the city by writing music and signing his songs accompanied to the guitar that he played. His guitar was an antique wooden one which he refused to trade for a newer model because it had been handed down to him through many generations. At first, he made fairly good money by his profession and he ignored the fact that he had an engineering degree hanging on the wall of his studio.

"It's just something I was forced into, not a career I chose myself as my lifelong profession," he would explain to curious friends whenever he saw them looking at his diploma and shaking their heads in perplexity at his present state of affairs.

Keith had a young unmarried secretary who, to help feed the many mouths at home, worked for him. He had come to consider her as an essential part of his office equipment and his Girl Friday who was always there with the right answer and who faithfully assisted him in all his work. Whenever he had a problem thinking, she would stand close to him, peer over his shoulder and say, "Oh, what's wrong now? At a loss for words again? Having trouble with writer's block? How about rewording it like this?" and she never failed to supply a perfect word or phrase that fit right into Keith's song as if she knew what he was thinking about even more than he did.

Keith was eternally preoccupied in his own world and paid little heed to her other than ordering her around. "Linda, did you get my newspaper yet?" or "What engagements do I have today?" or "Take down this note and rush it off to Mr. so and so as soon as possible!" or even, "Bring me my pipe and a cup of coffee!"

In spite of the fact that he hardly noticed her, Linda spent most of her days providing moral support and running around doing a thousand errands and to top it all off, served as his memory bank too, a sort of human computer.

Keith invariably had his head in the clouds as he puffed whiffs of curly smoke away on his pipe and wrote songs about his theories of love which reigned in a world of make believe. Romance to him seemed unavailable, mystic and inevitably fated with some Aphrodite who he had yet to discover. Linda was forever present, he knew she was attractive, yet he saw right through her as if she wasn't even there. Ah, there were plenty of women that unlike Linda, teased, joked and flirted with him and every once in a while, he dedicated a song to them in their names. He composed a "Joanie" song, a "Lady" song, a "Christina" song, and a "Sylvia" song, but of course, he never wrote a song for Linda. He never heard her sigh either or noted the infatuation that floated in her eyes. And even when she told him about various suitors who had asked for her hand in marriage, he was unimpressed. "So," he answered matter of factly when she spoke of her latest courter, "why didn't you accept then? What are you waiting for, Mr. Perfect?"

The blue sky greyed, the red carnations wilted and brown dirt leaves scattered about on the dusty street in front of Keith's studio. Times grew harder and his songs weren't as popular as before. He became depressed and nothing Linda said could draw him out of his gloomy

moods. He performed fewer concerts and his name which once had been a magic password for him faded into the chill of autumn. His calendar ceased to have dates scratched all over it and he spent more time trying to think of unusual songs to write. He even seriously considered going back to being an engineer but found he had little enthusiasm for such work.

"Linda," he said one very dark day as he started at the thick, inky clouds scramble across the sky, "you've been swell, but I can't afford to pay your salary much longer. My songs aren't selling like they used to. I don't know what's wrong with me!"

"Oh, sir, I'll work for free!" she said as she poured water on the plants that she had placed in pots all over his studio. "At least until you get some money and get back on your feet again. There's nothing wrong with you, you're a genius, but no one appreciates your talent. I'm right here whenever you need me!"

"Yes," he said thoughtfully, rubbing a stubble of beard he neglected to shave, "you've always been available Linda and I do appreciate you, but how can I let you work without pay?"

He failed to detect the glimmer of hope in her face fade or observe her tears that bulged behind her lids like a dam ready to burst. "No, I must think about what I'm going to do about my life and make other plans," he stated, biting his lower lip in frustration as he sank down into his easy chair in deep thought, ignoring the soul he gravely wounded.

"Bring me some coffee, will you? If anyone calls, tell them I'm out. I don't want to be disturbed! Get me my pipe too!"

Soon, Linda brought his pipe and a hot cup of coffee on a bronze tray and set it down before his vacant glare and then withdrew to her room where she typed up some papers. At five, when the sun slipped below the rocky hills and the pale moon peeked through a veil of black clouds, the songwriter came to her room and said, "It's time you went home. Your parents will be worried about you. You'd better get going. See you tomorrow."

She obediently interrupted her work and shuffled the papers on her desk into neat piles. Then she threw on her old overcoat and queried, "Is there anything else I can do for you before I leave?"

"No thanks, Linda, please, just leave me alone. Good-bye!" he replied and quickly turned his back and returned to his thoughts.

In a meek voice she stood waiting in the doorway of his studio weak and vulnerable but he took no notice when he spun around to see her off. "Good night," she whispered, but he didn't hear her. Instead he sat down on the top of his desk and wondered where his life was going. At about 11 o'clock he got up, packed his gold framed diploma in his briefcase along with a few other treasured possessions, grabbed his old wooden guitar and walked out of his studio.

The next day when she arrived at work as usual, Linda found his hastily scribbled note taped on the door which read, "Good-bye and thanks for all your hard work. I'm off to seek my fortune elsewhere-Keith."

There was no forwarding address. Since he had never written a Linda song, he never cared about her anyway or appreciated her either and was lost somewhere chasing his dreams in a fantasy world that didn't include her.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Oct. 22

1721 — Peter the Great takes title of czar of all Russia.

1862 — Garrison in Athens, Greece, revolts, forcing King Otto I to resign.

1873 — Emperors of Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary form alliance.

1922 — Iran breaks diplomatic relations with Britain over oil dispute.

1953 — France grants independence to Indochinese Kingdom of Laos.

1956 — Demonstrations in Hungary call for democratic government.

1962 — President John F. Kennedy orders U.S. Air and Naval Forces to quarantine Cuba after concluding that Soviet missile bases are being built on that island.

1969 — Lebanon's Premier Rashid Karami resigns amid mounting pressure against his government's attempt to suppress guerrilla movement.

1974 — United States and Iceland sign new lease permitting continued operations of U.S. military bases in Iceland.

1977 — Forty-two nations ask U.N. General Assembly to take up problems of airplane hijackings.

1987 — Iranian missile crashes into Kuwait's offshore supertanker terminal, setting facility ablaze.

1988 — Iraq announces it will release unilaterally 25 Iranian prisoners of war in accordance with United Nations ceasefire resolution.

1989 — Forty-nine Commonwealth nations agree to censure further sanctions against South Africa if further reforms are not taken within six months and Britain is lone dissenter.

1990 — Kenya breaks off diplomatic relations with Norway, alleging that Norway engaged in illegal activities to destabilise Kenyan government.

1991 — Yugoslav defence minister rejects EC peace proposals as leading to

"catastrophe" for that country.

Friday, Oct. 23

1917 — U.S. troops see first action in World War I near Lunenburg, France.

1942 — British Eighth Army attacks Axis forces to begin battle of El Alamein in Egypt during World War II.

1953 — Federal constitution of Rhodesia and Nyasaland goes into effect.

1954 — Britain, France, United States and Soviet Union agree to end occupation of Germany.

1958 — Soviet Union approves loan to United Arab Republic for Aswan Dam, in Egypt.

1962 — Soviet Union warns that a U.S. quarantine of arms shipments to Cuba risks a thermonuclear war.

1968 — Egyptian and Israeli jet planes battle over Suez Canal in first such reported action since 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

1973 — Israeli military command announces that Israel and Egypt have agreed to new ceasefire in Middle East war.

1983 — Suicide terrorists blow up U.S. Marine headquarters building at Beirut Airport, Lebanon, and nearby French headquarters with bomb-laden trucks, killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 Frenchmen.

1988 — Long awaited Soviet election reform calls for choice of candidates but limits sharply what they can advocate.

1989 — Tens of thousands of Hungarians demand end to communism on anniversary of 1956 uprising crushed by Soviet tanks.

1991 — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announces that he will head Israel's delegation to the Madrid peace conference in Madrid.

1991 — Yugoslav defence minister rejects EC peace proposals as leading to

"catastrophe" for that country.

1990 — China ratifies

1854 — Heroic charge of the British Light Brigade

1860 — China ratifies

1860 — China ratifies

treaties with Britain and France.

1909 — Russia and Italy sign agreement to preserve status quo in the Balkans.

1922 — Dail adopts constitution for Irish free state.

1929 — Prices collapse on New York Stock Exchange.

1934 — Mahatma Gandhi withdraws from Indian National Congress.

1945 — United Nations Charter goes into effect as Soviet Union becomes 29th nation to ratify it.

1954 — State of emergency is declared in Pakistan.

1961 — Protests are made at United Nations after Soviet Union explodes largest nuclear bomb ever tested.

1962 — U.S. blockades Cuba.

1964 — Northern Rhodesia, renamed Zambia, becomes independent republic.

1967 — Egyptian oil installations in port city of Suez are set ablaze by Israeli artillery fire across Suez Canal.

1975 — Turkey's ambassador to France is fatally shot in Paris by assassins.

1986 — Britain breaks diplomatic relations with Syria after jury convicts Arab man of trying to blow up an Israeli airliner.

1988 — Rebels claim to have seized another provincial capital in Afghanistan.

1989 — Soviet legislature votes overwhelmingly to deny Commonwealth Party its guaranteed majority in Congress of People's Deputies.

1990 — At least 21 people die in India during nationwide strike called by right-wing Hindu party trying to bring down government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

1991 — Rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko seems to unravel further amidst angry anti-government protests in capital of Kinshasa.

1991 — Croatian defenders abandon Dubrovnik as Yugoslav army advances within the city limits; U.S. weapons experts confirm that their inspectors have obtained Iraq's complete diagrams for working nuclear weapons.

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near Sevastopol, Russia, during Crimean War.

1874 — Britain annexes Fiji Islands.

1900 — Transvaal is annexed formally by Britain at Pretoria, South Africa.

1909 — Murder of Japan's Prince Ito by Korean fanatics leads to Japanese dictatorship in Korea.

1936 — Germany and Italy form Rome-Berlin axis.

1938 — Japanese troops take Hankow, and Chinese government establishes itself at Chungking; Libya is declared part of Italy.

1941 — Germany's first offensive against Moscow in World War II fails.

1956 — Egypt, Jordan and Syria form unified military command.

1966 — Indonesia's former Foreign Minister Subandrio is sentenced to death.

1971 — United Nations seats China and expels Nationalist Chinese.

1974 — Foreign ministers of 19 Arab countries meet in Rabat, Morocco, and vote strong support for Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1987 — Indian peacekeeping forces wrest control of most of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, but still face Tamil rebel snipers.

1988 — Israeli troops shoot and wound nine Palestinians in scattered clashes throughout occupied Arab territories.

1989 — Soviet state bank announces ruble will be devalued by nearly 90 per cent for tourists and businessmen.

1990 — Kazakh Republic declares sovereignty from Soviet government and factional fighting threatens to break out in Moldavia.

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Jordan excels at Seville EXPO '92

By Kayed Hashem

LAST week marked the end of the six month long Seville Universal Exposition, the largest universal exposition this century. One hundred and eleven countries participated in EXPO'92 in addition to various international commissions and organisations. For Jordan, it was the completion of the most successful international effort abroad in the fields of communication, culture and tourism. Numerous ministries, institutions, organisations and individuals had worked hard together to successfully promote Jordan abroad through the use of exhibits, performances, media plans, documentaries and promotional material.

Jordan's participation in EXPO'92 was made possible thanks to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who saw early on the benefits derived from Jordan's participation in EXPO'92 in terms of dialogue and communication between nations, intercultural exchange and image-building. Thus on Feb. 28, 1987 Jordan became the second country to accept Spain's invitation to participate in the Seville Universal EXPO. Dr. Mazen Armouti, advisor to the Crown Prince, was appointed commissioner general for Jordan at EXPO'92 and a National committee was formed with Dr. Armouti as chairman.

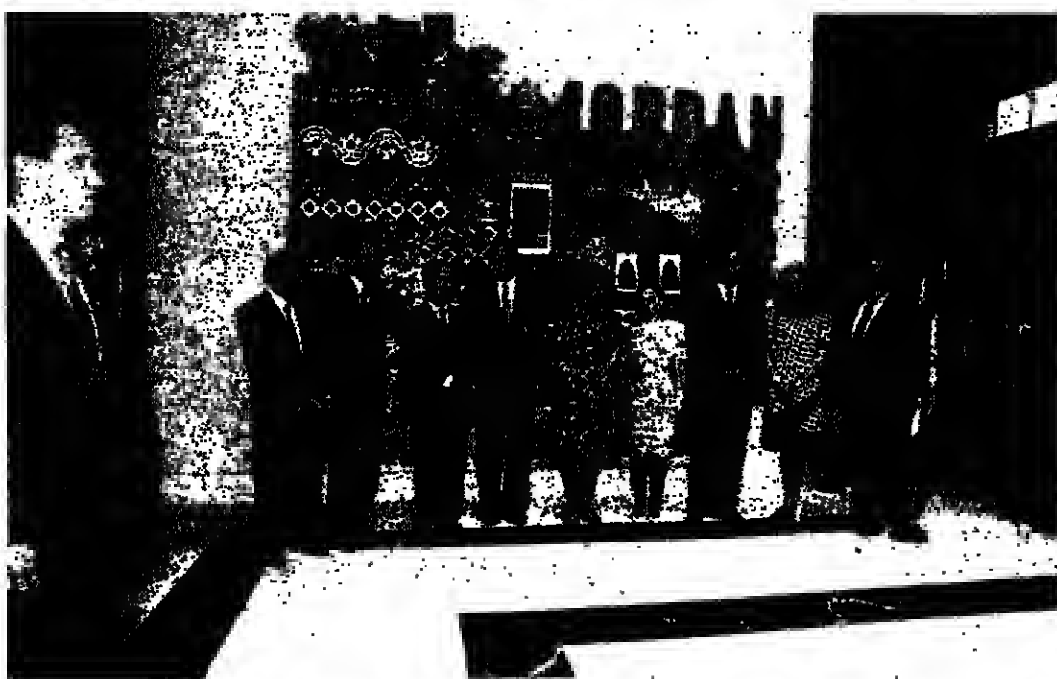
The committee included members Dr. Adnan Al Bakheit, President of Mu'tah University; Mr. Nasri Attah, secretary general at the Ministry of Tourism and

Antiquities; Mr. Trad Al Fayed, ex-secretary general at the Ministry of Information; Mr. Mohammad N. Amayreh, secretary general at the Ministry of Culture; Mr. Shahr Bak, Jordan's ambassador to Spain; architect Rassem Badran, specialist in Islamic architecture; Dr. Safwan Tal, director general at the Department of Antiquities; Ambassador Khalil Othman, director of international relations and conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Farouk Lambaz, vice-president for public relations, Royal Jordanian; Mr. Abdul Hamid Hiyari, director of general accounting, Ministry of Finance.

In 1990 Crown Prince Hassan laid the foundation stone for Jordan's pavilion, having continuously directed, guided and supported this national effort since its inception.

Jordan's participation in EXPO'92 was multi-faceted. It consisted of exhibits, media campaigns and lively rich cultural programmes.

At the pavilion, an exhibit was held for six months of archaeological pieces pertaining to the various civilisations that have passed through the country, emphasising the land's lasting Arab and Islamic legacy. On exhibit also were models of the most well known historical sites, such as Petra, mosaics and an impressive model of parts of Qasr Amra. Traditional costumes and jewellery from Mrs. Widad Kassar's fabulous collection were displayed. A model of "Al Salt" city occupied part of the pavilion



Their Majesties King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Princess Taghrid and other dignitaries visit the Jordanian pavilion at Seville EXPO '92.

as a model of urban development. A modern Jordan corner displayed through pictures the educational, scientific, social and economic life in Jordan in addition to "faces and places" in Jordan.

The pavilion, in an EXPO publication was described as "a gem of a museum." All exhibits at the pavilion were artfully displayed by local artist Ali Al Jabri.

The pavilion received over three million visitors including many Arab, European and Spanish dignitaries amongst whom were King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath who

presided over Jordan's National Week in May '92. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Felipe of Spain and members of the Spanish Royal family, Their Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Princess Taghrid, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal, His Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and numerous international figures.

The second major component of Jordan's participation consisted of cultural activities. An Arab fine arts exhibition was organised by the Jordanian pavilion and held at EXPO's Art Gallery. Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali

with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture selected a representative sample of Jordanian paintings which were exhibited at the pavilion and at EXPO's Fine Arts Gallery. A number of Jordanian artists have contributed their talents. Artist Mahmoud Taha's work enhanced the pavilion's entrance with a ceramic mural depicting Jordan's history and civilisation. A postal stamp on Jordan's participation designed by Mr. Farouk Lambaz was issued to commemorate Jordan's presence in EXPO'92. Mr. Rafik Laham has contributed in a card design for a souvenir stamp distributed to visitors of the pavilion.

Jordan's National Day selected to coincide with Jordan's Independence Day (May 25) was an occasion for intense cultural activities spread over a week. Multitudes of people from all over the world came to see the proud Jordanian Armed Forces Band parading at the EXPO and in downtown Seville. The Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe delighted enchanted audiences with the best dances of the area. In downtown Seville the bells of the Giralda sounded for the Jordanians who made a gift to Seville of a spectacular performance. A classical music concert was donated by pianist Rula Nabeel at the Capitanía Theatre. Rula delighted her audience.

Other cultural activities took place in Sept. 1992. Festivities coincided with His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and return to Jordan. Celebrations included dance and song performances, a concert by Miss Nabeel, and seminars on Arab-Spanish and Arab-European relations in historical perspective were held at Calahorra, the centre for Arabic-Islamic heritage in Cordoba. Participants from the Jordanian side included



Dr. Mazen Armouti escorts Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath at the Jordanian pavilion.

Dr. Adnan Bakheit, Dr. Mazen Armouti, Dr. Salah Jarrar of the University of Jordan and Dr. Fayed Al Qaisi of Mu'tah University.

The cultural committee headed by Dr. Bakheit organised a book exhibition at the Calahorra centre with Al Andalus as its theme. Both the seminars and the exhibition met with enormous success.

Communication activities included interviews and documentaries on Jordan that were distributed through Tele-Expo to many countries. One million brochures on Jordan were distributed to visitors of the pavilion. Samples of Dead Sea salts, as well as potash and phosphate

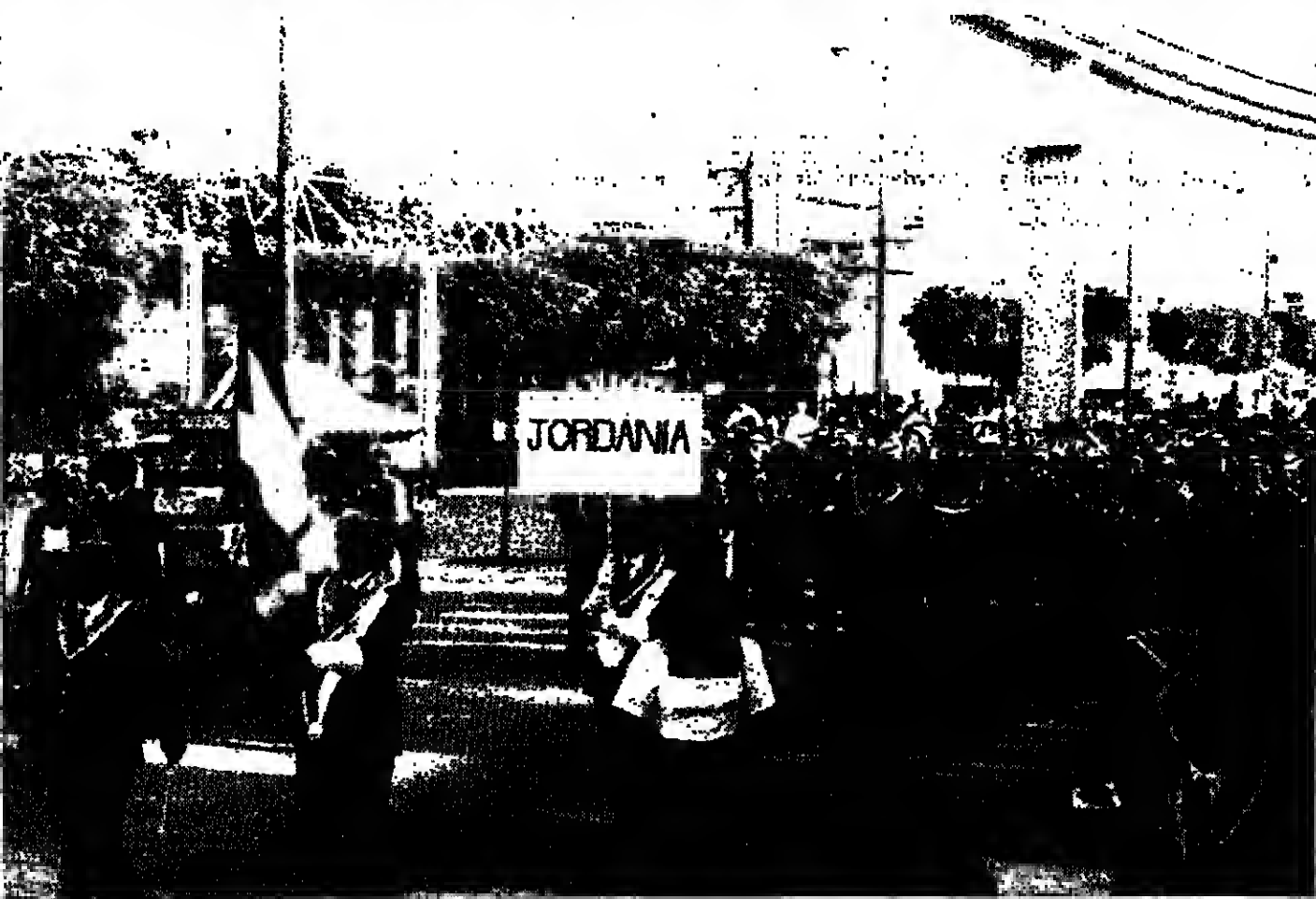
salts, were distributed to acquaint visitors with the important resources and manufacturing in Jordan.

Jordan has effectively made its voice heard all over the world. Its exhibits made an excellent impression. According to an EXPO publication "Jordan has proved that you don't have to be the largest or wealthiest to create an involving exhibit." Jordan at the EXPO was recently given a 4 star mention (5 stars being the top rating). Its live cultural programmes were given top rating.

Commenting on the favourable statements received by Jordan's pavilion, Dr. Armouti said that Jordan's participation "would

not have been possible were it not for the vision of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who has always stressed the importance of intercultural communication and social co-existence." He added that the effort has been a "truly collective, interdisciplinary and integrated effort including ministries, many institutions, and organisation, as well as local talent and numerous individuals."

Dr. Armouti noted the extremely valuable assistance offered by the Spanish government: "The Spanish government and people have been especially gracious and hospitable. We cannot thank them enough for their assistance and cooperation."



The Jordanian Armed Forces Band parades at the EXPO.



Dr. Armouti briefs Her Royal Highness Princess Christina of Spain on one of the items on display at the EXPO.

Man of Shetland who electrified the fiddle

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

ERWICK, Shetland Islands — When Kenny Johnson electrified an electric fiddle to play in a band, he made his name. It turned into a business.

His handmade electric fiddles are sold in the United States and have become an in-demand small export business in the Shetland Islands, northeast of Scotland.

"There were a lot of sceptics in Shetland who said an electric fiddle couldn't be made, but I've sold a lot in England and even to traditional Scottish musicians in Edinburgh," Mr. Johnson said in an interview at his home.

Mr. Johnson, 39, his wife Anna and their two young sons, Magnus and James, live in Lerwick, the Shetland capital. When the music business slacks off, he builds sheds, repairs roofs and looks after sheep on his father's farm.

He first made an electric fiddle when he was playing in a band and needed a

fiddle for two songs. He took an old violin, electrified it and closed off the F-shaped holes on the front of the instrument.

He started in business by repairing fiddles and guitars, picking up knowledge from Shetland craftsmen.

"If you are just listening you wouldn't know the fiddle was electric, but the advantage of it is that the sound can be amplified," he said.

His method picks up the tone in the body, not in the bridge over which the strings are stretched.

"The bridge shape can't be altered and if the bridge breaks you're in trouble. My method increased the output and gave a sweeter tone because it was picking up from a larger area," Mr. Johnson said.

His violins are made of maple, spruce and pine from Germany, and electric gear from a Massachusetts company.

Mr. Johnson made a three-quarter size electric fiddle for Prince William, son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, as a gift in 1986 from the

islands council.

He has sold about 100 electric fiddles at prices ranging from \$800 to \$1,500. Buyers include folk, rock and country music groups.

Demonstrating his instruments at the Frankfurt Music Fair in Germany this year, Mr. Johnson said he was pleasantly surprised by the interest from classical musicians.

"Violins are difficult in general, but an electric fiddle is a very unforgiving instrument. It amplifies all the bad as well as the good, so if your technique is bad it will be heard," he said. "Because classical musicians are so highly trained in technique they made it work better than I had imagined."

He calls his business Skyin-bow, a Shetlandic word for a set of furiously paced reels.

Shetland has a long, thriving tradition of fiddle music. Fiddlers play in pop groups and Shetland Young Heritage is a group of musicians formed to keep the island's music alive.

"A lot of people believe our fiddling tradition came

from Norway but I see no evidence of it," Johnson said. "I'd say the fiddle became popular here from the late 1700s. The modern violin evolved in the early 1700s. Before that, the neck angle was different and not many of them were seen in Scotland."

"There were a lot of German traders in Shetland in the late 1700s and early 1800s and Lerwick was built by Dutch fishermen. People think of Shetland as remote and isolated, but it has always been cosmopolitan, a place of seafarers who picked up influences everywhere."

The more than 100 islands of Shetland, 15 of them inhabited, are nearer to Norway than to the Scottish capital of Edinburgh. The islands, now home to 22,550 people, were colonised in the eighth century by the Vikings, who stayed for 700 years before giving way to the Scots.

Fiddling is just now recovering from the impact of recorded rock, and it has had other rough times in the past, Mr. Johnson said.

"At the start of the century there were clergymen much

opposed to it and one fire-and-brimstone man on Unst (island) called the fiddle the devil's work and smashed every one he saw."

"The people who lost their fiddles to him composed a tune called 'Deil Stik The Minister' (Devil Strike The Minister) — some slight variation with religious theology there," Mr. Johnson said with a smile.

All kinds of music are popular in Shetland, said Mr. Johnson, who plays fiddle and acoustic guitar in a group called Atlantic Accent.

"I took a band from Glasgow that played traditional American bluegrass music and put them in a bar in Lerwick where there were about 30 punk rockers, a heap of leather-clad bikers and a lot of drunken fishermen," Mr. Johnson said.

"The band was scared to play and expected trouble. But halfway through the first set the punk rockers were on top of the tables shouting for their favourite bluegrass songs... They had been listening earlier to some terrible punk band."

Paris fashion houses tighten belts

By Lee Yanowitch
Reuters

PARIS — French fashion houses are having to tighten their studded leather belts, and cut their prices as well as their cloth to protect sagging sales depressed by world economic recession.

As French designers sew the final stitches into their leather corsets and sumptuous gowns for ready-to-wear shows opening this week, anxiety hangs thick over Paris salons.

The slowdown has lasted two years and hopes of an early recovery are increasingly dim.

"The fashion industry is doing no better than last year and in my opinion its going to stay this way for another two years," said Jacques Mouchier, president of the Chamber Syndicale, French fashion's governing body.

Sales are slipping by 10 per cent every six months, he said, so fashion houses should adapt to the new

disse to consumers strapped by the recession and seek new, untapped markets.

"They have to make their prices more competitive and find new markets where there is unanswered demand. For example, in Korea and Taiwan they should sell more," Mr. Mouchier said.

Most designer clothes, although mass-produced and sold off the rack, are out of the price range of the average shopper.

Luxury label Christian Dior has already trimmed its prices and many top designers — including Claude Montana, Emanuel Ungaro and Jean-Louis Scherrer — are launching new, down-market lines to appeal to a less affluent clientele.

Mouchier said sales to the U.S. market, which account for 12 per cent of French fashion exports, have suffered most due to the long American recession and the dollar's slide.

But Japanese buyers, French fashion's biggest clients with 30 per cent of

ing from Paris. "Despite their problems, Japan is still in good shape. They will be having their own difficulties but for the moment the market is sound," he said.

The slump recently stirred discord among Paris designers. After months of haggling, they agreed to move the dates of their March and October ready-to-wear collections next year ahead of the Milan shows, normally held 10 days earlier.

Many designers said the later dates cost them business since buyers spent much of their money before getting to Paris.

Bigger houses, which show haute couture in January and July, opposed the new dates saying shows in February and October would cut into the time they need to prepare a ready-to-wear line.

Yves Saint Laurent, the revered master whose house just held its 30th birthday, is set against the new dates and has said he may stop presenting

The new AIDS scare

By Partha S. Banerjee

NEW YORK — Luc Montagnier of Pasteur Institute, Paris, one of the scientists who discovered the AIDS virus, is more than sceptical about the claim, and he is not alone. But says New York virologist David H. Ho, "These patients are real. They exist. It's true we have no foolproof evidence to conclude there's a new AIDS virus, but there are these cases."

Ever since a story in the American magazine Newsweek speculated on the existence of a new virus, AIDS research circles have been roiled by controversy. Published in late July when the International Conference on AIDS was convening in Amsterdam, the story virtually overturned the agenda of the meeting. The media, present in strength, demanded special press conferences to question scientists on the curious cases mentioned in the article: Patients with AIDS symptoms who test negative for HIV, the virus normally associated with the disease.

Suddenly, with the spectre of a new virus on the loose, a fresh AIDS panic seemed to be taking hold. Public health officials called on scientists and doctors who may have encountered non-HIV AIDS cases to step forward with whatever information they have to facilitate investigation. It was then that researchers like David Ho, who were in Amsterdam to present papers on entirely different subjects, revealed that they too had come upon non-HIV AIDS cases.

And in far away California, immunologist Sudhir Gupta told reporters he had actually isolated a possible new AIDS virus. Dr. Gupta, who heads a research team at the University of California at Irvine, said he found the virus in a 66-year-old woman and her 38-year-old daughter; he named it the Human Intracellular Retrovirus (HIR).

Dr. Gupta's claim has however been seriously disputed since, but that has only

deepened the mystery. If there is no new virus, how is the disease being transmitted? At a special conference in Atlanta in mid-August, convened by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) — the principal U.S. medical referral institute — scientists tried hard to answer that question. "The mood in Atlanta," reported the British weekly New Scientist, "was markedly more skeptical than in Amsterdam." CDC announced it knew so far of 35 definite non-HIV AIDS cases, 24 of them from Germany, Spain, Denmark and Australia. "The epidemiology is that, whatever this is, it is uncommon," said the institute's AIDS division chief Harold Jaffe, "and there is really no evidence of transmission."

"There is no evidence for anything, in fact," adds Jeffrey Laurence of New York's Cornell University Medical College, who along with Dr. Gupta and Dr. Ho has made the most extensive studies of these curious cases. "There is no evidence to talk of any infectious agent, whether it be bacteria or virus or retrovirus." Retroviruses are a special family of microbes whose members include the two known variants of the AIDS virus — HIV-1 and HIV-2 (HIV-2 is found almost exclusively in West African patients.) Like all viruses, retroviruses are composed only of a snippet of genetic material surrounded by a coat of protein. But they differ from usual viruses in the content of their genetic material; in retroviruses, the genetic material is not deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, the blueprint of life, but its mirror-image RNA or ribonucleic acid.

Viruses (and retroviruses) are not strictly living organisms in that they cannot reproduce on their own; reproduction occurs only when they invade living cells, like those of an infected human. Once in the cell, they hijack its reproductive machinery in the nucleus, and deceive it into producing replicas of

themselves. This they accomplish by fusing their own genetic material, or DNA, into that of the cell's.

In the retrovirus, the genetic material RNA, in order to multiply, must first be converted into DNA. An enzyme called reverse transcriptase helps here: Released as soon as the retrovirus enters the host cell, the enzyme acts like a trigger, prompting the cellular machinery to turn the viral RNAs into DNAs.

A smoking gun

If it is a trigger, it is also a smoking gun. For when scientists detect the presence of reverse transcriptase in a sample, they know they are on the trail of retroviruses. Dr. Gupta, Dr. Ho and Dr. Laurence have all found high levels of reverse transcriptase in several of the cases under study even when sophisticated probes searching for HIV repeatedly turned up nothing. It was this finding that led them to speculate on a new virus, or more precisely, retrovirus.

Dr. Laurence has reported reverse transcriptase in two of the five non-HIV AIDS cases he is studying. Dr. Ho says he has detected "enzymatic activity resembling reverse transcriptase" in 17 under examination. Dr. Gupta's team at Irvine has strong evidence: Reverse transcriptase characteristic of previously unidentified retroviruses has turned up in six cases besides the mother and daughter. He has, however, chosen to discuss only the mother and daughter cases in a recent paper and has presented photographs of the retroviruses taken by electron microscopy.

A virus is typically 0.1 micrometre in diameter. A billion of them would pack a cube just a tenth of a millimetre across, barely visible to the eye. But Dr. Gupta's photographs seem to be of microbes that are even tinier. "The pictures Gupta has presented," said Dr. Ho, "show retroviruses too small to be infectious. They do not even

seem to have envelopes and he himself describes them as 'A' type particles. But 'A' type particles are almost by definition non-infectious. So his claims about a new virus still seem unconvincing."

And even if Dr. Gupta's claim is accepted, there is nothing yet to conclusively associate the retrovirus with the immune deficiency in the mother and daughter. "There is a possibility that it is just a harmless microbe," Dr. Gupta himself said, "with the infection coming from a yet unknown agent. We still have to study it before confirming any linkage." Dr. Gupta has hinted that the retrovirus could have been transmitted through a blood transfusion that the mother received in 1950, before her daughter was born. She developed pneumocystic carinii pneumonia, one of the commonest AIDS symptoms but her daughter has as yet shown no sign of illness — only her T-cell count has dropped abnormally. T-cells (or T-helper cells) are a type of white blood cell that play a vital role in policing the body against infections. Not only do they kill or neutralise foreign agents like bacteria or viruses, they also coordinate the activity of other infection-fighting white blood cells. One indication of an AIDS infection is a drop in T-cell count. Indeed, in many of the non-HIV AIDS cases that scientists have been studying, abnormally low T-cell counts are about the only clues to a weakening immune deficiency, AIDS symptoms having not yet surfaced. Dr. David Ho's first case, for instance, was a Los Angeles gay male in his 30s who just wanted to get tested for HIV. The test conducted in 1988 proved negative but Dr. Ho, who was based then in Los Angeles, was struck by the abnormally low T-cell count of the patient.

The patient still lives and, in fact, remains asymptomatic, like millions of HIV positive cases around the world who have not yet fallen ill. Over the next few years, Dr.

Ho came across four other cases with poor T-cell counts but no HIV infection. In February 1990, by which time he had moved to New York as director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Centre, he presented a paper before the Society of Clinical Investigation on his curious findings.

It was around then that Dr. Laurence chanced on his first case (a patient with symptoms) but he didn't take it too seriously until April 1992 when three other cases showed up. "I figured out this was too much to ignore," Dr. Laurence said, "and I called up the CDC to report." By then several other scientists had been reporting on the mysterious cases. Bijan Safai on New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre had even presented a paper describing one at the 1991 International Conference on AIDS while researchers from Spain wrote of another case early this year in the British medical journal, *Lancet*. A CDC epidemiologist Thomas Spira, described six American cases but it wasn't until July at the Amsterdam conference that the phenomenon burst into the headlines.

The government-run CDC, which is entrusted with tracking AIDS and other major diseases, has come under criticism for not responding promptly enough to the

strange new cases. However, since the conference the institute called in mid-August, research on the new syndrome has now climbed up the priority list in many U.S. labs, but scientists still do not see it as a major medical threat. With a total of 35 cases, the syndrome seems an infinitesimal aberration against the estimated 10-12 million HIV positive cases worldwide. (The estimate for cases actually ill with AIDS is 1.7 million).

Some see the new syndrome, with its still unknown infection agent, as yet another complication in the race to prevent and cure AIDS. Scientists, however, are trying to emphasise that the disease could well be very different from AIDS — perhaps a wholly new immune problem that mimics AIDS. Said Dr. Ho: "I feel specialists from other fields need to get involved here, so the search is not limited to retroviruses or even viruses."

One question that keeps surfacing is whether blood supplies have to be screened yet again? And would new risk factors have to be identified? Doctors say no, at least going by the evidence they have. "Since people who are contributing to the syndrome have the same AIDS risk factors," said Dr. Laurence, "we should continue with the same precautions." But

Dr. Jeffrey Laurence of Cornell University Medical College has made an extensive study of the baffling cases of patients who exhibit AIDS symptoms but who test negative for HIV, the virus normally associated with the disease.

added Dr. Ho, "It could all change two months from now if a new virus or other agent is actually linked to the syndrome. Then we would have to devise new tests and determine how it is transmitted. But one thing is not likely to change: The fact that HIV-1 is by far the single biggest carrier of AIDS" — World News Link.

Asthma rates rising among children — study

NEW YORK (AP) — Asthma rates in children and adolescents tripled in some groups over a 20-year period, says a study that adds to evidence of a puzzling growth of the disease across the United States.

The trend toward making homes more energy-efficient by reducing air leakage may have played a role by trapping inside more airborne particles like cat dander, researchers speculated.

But there is no evidence yet for any explanation about why the rates rose from 1964 to 1983 in Rochester, Minn., study co-author Dr. Marc Silverstein said.

The annual rate of new asthma cases roughly tripled in boys and girls ages 10 to 14 and in girls ages 5 to 9. The rate doubled or nearly so in boys and girls ages 1 to 4 and boys ages 5 to 9. No increases appeared in other age groups.

The report follows studies elsewhere that indicated asthma became more common in children during the 1970s and 1980s, sent more young children to the hospital during the 1980s and caused more deaths.

The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported last week that the national rate of asthma deaths rose 46 per cent during the 1980s.

Other proposed explanations include greater survival of low-birthweight infants who may be prone to asthma, more cigarette smoking by mothers and greater use of daycare, which could expose more infants to viral infections that may promote asthma.

The work is presented in October's issue of the American Review of Respiratory Disease by Dr. Silverstein, Dr. John Yunginger and others at the Mayo Clinic.

Study: Genetics plays biggest role in whether women become alcoholics

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Genetics plays the single largest role in determining whether a woman becomes an alcoholic, researchers said after studying 1,030 sets of female twins.

That contradicts a medical assumption that males tend to inherit much of their vulnerability to alcoholism while females get it more from social influences, said the lead author, Dr. Kenneth S. Kendler.

"Our results suggest biological and genetic factors play as important a role in women as in men," he said by telephone from California, where results were presented at a science writers conference.

About 50 to 60 per cent of a woman's tendency toward alcoholism is inherited, Mr. Kendler's team reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

A related study by other researchers in the journal found that females with drinking problems tend to seek treatment at mental health and medical clinics rather than at drug or alcohol treatment centres, where males tend to go.

"Women seem to attribute alcohol problems to depression or anxiety more than men," said lead author Constance Weisner, a senior scientist at the Medical Research Institute of San Francisco.

"And there's also a social stigma for women, more than for men," added Ms. Weis-

ner, an assistant adjunct professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley.

Women alcoholics do tend to suffer depression or other illnesses at higher rates than men, said Dr. Kendler, professor of psychiatry and human genetics at the Medical College of Virginia-Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

The genetic role in alcoholism among women has been studied very little and has been limited largely to women undergoing treatment — a small and unrepresentative fraction of female problem drinkers in society, he said.

His team used Virginia birth certificates to identify female twins in the general population.

Of the 2,600 twins they found, interviewed and studied, 185 had suffered from alcoholism at some point in their lives and 172 had experienced milder drinking problems.

Among the 590 pairs of identical twins, each woman was five times more likely than an average person to be an alcoholic if her twin was an alcoholic, Dr. Kendler said. Among the 440 sets of fraternal twins, each woman was only 1.6 times more likely than average to be an alcoholic if her twin was one.

Those ratios were for severe alcoholism and diminished with milder types, he said.

The study didn't give the number of alcoholic pairs among the identical twins or fraternal twins. Identical twins have the same genetic blueprint. Fraternal twins

share only half their genes, the same as non-twin siblings.

Using a statistical analysis, the researchers calculated that genetics accounted for 53 per cent to 61 per cent of a woman's tendency to become an alcoholic, depending on how broadly alcoholism was defined.

Social class, parental discipline and parental drinking behaviour appeared to play a minor role, the researchers said.

Environmental influences that weren't shared by twins, such as friends or colleges attended, appeared to count for 40 per cent to 50 per cent

of the variance in liability to alcoholism, the researchers said.

Dr. David Goldman, chief of the neurogenetics laboratory at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, called the study excellent. He said it justifies continuing biological research that so far has been inconclusive about exactly which genes might be the problem.

"If we could isolate those, we could gain clues as to the cause, prevention and treatment in some individuals," he said by telephone from Rockville, Maryland.

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
Science

1. Yes, there is such a point, known as the blind spot.
2. The International Date Line, or the 180° meridian.
3. It is solid carbon dioxide.
4. The feeling of being turned around.
5. To measure specific gravity.
6. Yes.
7. Since as early as the 13th century when they were often used as bone ornaments rather than buttoning a garment as they are used today. Although usually round, buttons can be almost any shape, size or colour. Sets of buttons were given as gifts during the 18th and the 19th century and a New York firm has made buttons from tagua nuts which harden when they are heated. Pearl buttons come from certain oyster and mussel shells. In China a literary honour is bestowed on someone by the placing of a gold button in his cap, while Mandarins wear a different button on the top of their caps.

PUZZLES

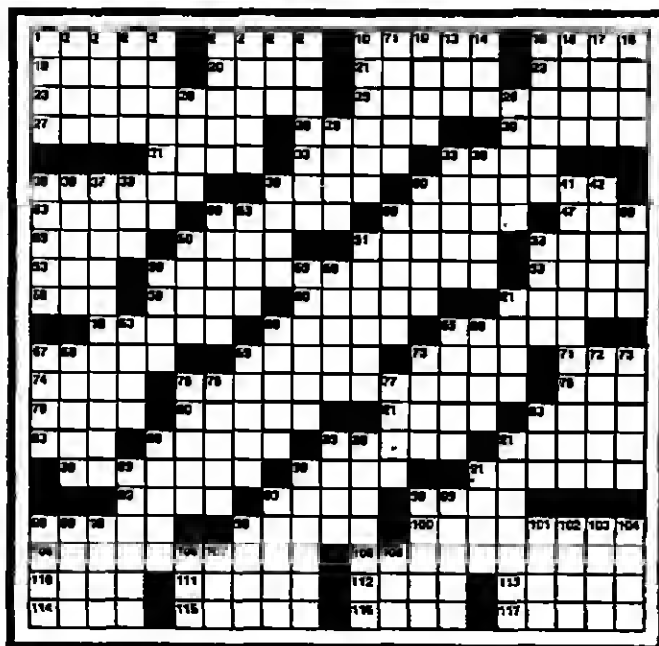
1. Medlar, Celery
2. Antelope, Tiger, Elephant, Leopard

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

DOLLAR SIGNS
By Gleaner Petravage

- ACROSS
1 Kind of word
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10 Scent
12 Scent
14 Scent
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98 Scent
100 Scent



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Frightened leopard does change spots after he sees real ghost in his cage.
2. As boy spied his first robin, and bird, in turn, eyed his first person, the last line left us.
3. Old country bakery claims butter makes its better better and less bitter.
4. Local bishop abhors liberal principles, calls current ecclesiastical rules loose cannons.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. M YINTE EVTT XIN IA PÖV GVXZ
BIWEVSANT NZVB YCS ZCTVZPCW M PVF.
ENF BOVB EVTVGV PVV —By Gordon Miller

2. BWSBUMP JOXP BEATUP GJOPUX WJU
BEATUP SE ASBJ ELL OLSUM O CMUSSP
BOMX MWUJ. —By Lela R. Jones

3. VDR "ETCU" VTCCLO LO CM QUELCU
BLOCQLA SLMDEUB SQIBCEBU DO ADS
QUEDOR. —By Barbara J. Rugg

4. IXN FINBE FIXEB UP UPLLPN AW EPISP
SNOLAMPR SPOMP WIN QEE. —By Ed Raddison

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Prince urges institutionalised approach

(Continued from page 1)

beliefs. No country yet enjoys a perfect human rights record, but there are grounds for hope, in that democracy and human rights are increasingly seen as the basis of good government.

"The evolution of a community of interests at the national level should be accompanied by a parallel development across the region. Our firm conviction is that the disparities and discrepancies that exist within the region and within countries of the region must be addressed, and an institutional framework for their elimination set up. The states of the Middle East need regional cooperation for, to evolve mechanisms for the promotion of regional interests. The second component of the peace process, the multilateral talks, provides the instrument as well as the framework to begin work for the future in earnest.

"We have proposed the establishment of a conference on security and cooperation for the Middle East (CSCME), and a conflict-free zone for the whole region. To prevent the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in the future, Jordan has called on all the states of the region to sign and ratify the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and to accept the international safeguards of the IAEA.

All states of the Middle East must also sign and ratify the biological weapons convention of 1972, and concur with the terms of the forthcoming chemical weapons treaty. A complete freeze is needed on the acquisition, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles, leading to their elimination, and a similar ban must be imposed on elements used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. These measures will have to be supervised, monitored and verified by a regional body created for this purpose.

"I would like now to turn to the issues relating to refugees and other displaced persons; for again, these do not concern the Middle East alone. The plight of two million refugees from the conflict in the Balkans illustrates that this problem respects no boundaries. Likewise, the danger that threatens to engulf areas of the former Soviet Union must be of concern in all, irrespective of geography. The Middle East knows the realities of this issue. Its experience can be of benefit to all; but conversely, its problems cannot be solved without sustained international input.

The Palestinian and Jordanian people have borne most of the human consequences of hostilities in the region since 1948. My country, with its meagre resources, has received several waves of migration both forced and induced, from the East and West.

The latest influx to Jordan took place in the wake of Iraq's occupation and annexation of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf war, when over 300,000 individuals, an increase of about 10% to the population, were displaced. This heightened the strains on an already overburdened economy. The cost of political economy has been high.

While Jordan is determined to continue the structural adjustment required for our economy, domestic effort alone will be insufficient to deal effectively with the challenges. But the obstacles are not insurmountable when objectively recognized and soberly assessed. Israel, with a population of about five million, receives grants in aid of over \$5 billion annually. Jordan, with a population of about 4 million, receives only \$300 million a year. The West Bank and Gaza Strip, with a population of 2.2 million, scarcely receive a grant. Thus, per capita income in Israel is more than tenfold that of the Jordanians and Palestinians combined.

Such exogenously created gaps must be balanced to reduce the disparity and contribute to the climate of peace. Poverty and asymmetrical treatment rank high among the root causes of conflict in the Middle East and elsewhere. Bilateral aid policies of symmetry and equity are therefore vital to lasting regional stability. The economy of Jordan and that of the Palestinians needs to be supplemented externally if they are to shoulder their regional responsibilities. To this end, the creation of a regional sinking fund, as well as a Middle East Bank for reconstruction and development, merit consideration.

(Continued from page 1)

It is paradoxical that such a stark contrast between affluence and poverty should exist in the Mediterranean basin. For to the north, in Europe, mountains or excess food and the products are exported; while to the south, across the African continent, misery, starvation and famine reign unabated. East of the Mediterranean, demographic pressures, coupled with limited and uneven distribution of water resources, have eroded the rightful water share of many nations, with unprecedented social, economic and environmental implications. These circumstances afflict much of the developing world. The experience of Jordan illustrates the nature of the problems that can be expected to beset the semi-arid regions of the earth, and their 600 million inhabitants.

The land and water resources of Jordan, capable of sustaining about 1.4 million people, today have 4 million dependents. This imbalance necessitates the diversion of irrigation water for domestic use, partly replaced by treated waste water at high environmental cost, in the detriment of public health and personal hygiene. Ground water is being extracted at about 165 per cent of its sustainable yield. Remedial measures have been taken, but only regional water and environment charters could compensate the states of the region and meet the imbalances. In addition, local sustainable development programmes, harmonious with both the needs of the environment and the wishes of people, should receive every support.

Jordan is engaged in a number of such initiatives; and herein lies the key to the future of the development world. Successful and sustainable development policies greatly increase a country's ability not only to deal with resource management and humanitarian crises, but also to contribute positively to the world community. The underprivileged of today must be encouraged to play their part in the global fellowship of tomorrow. For progress in the developmental sphere will open a wider, more tolerant cultural space, promoting peace and stability, and helping to resolve outstanding areas of conflict to the benefit of all.

King Hassan

(Continued from page 1)

fired among Arab Gulf states. But while observers are optimistic that the visit will witness the launching of an attempt to mend fences in the Arab World, they say getting Saudi Arabia's consent to the holding of a summit will be very difficult.

After Saudi Arabia, King Hassan will visit Abu Dhabi, Amman, Damascus and Cairo respectively.

HOTEL
INTER-CONTINENTAL
JORDAN

coming soon

BURNARA
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Court appoints lawyers for deputies

(Continued from page 1)

any identification documents. Mr. Shbeilat denied he had ever seen the man before.

The two deputies, as well as two shopkeepers, face charges ranging from belonging to an illegal armed organisation (Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami) to aiming to topple the regime, receiving funds from abroad and possession of explosives and arms. Mr. Shbeilat also faces charges of slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament.

In his statement to the court, Mr. Shbeilat, who appeared tired but calm, also demanded that the prosecution witnesses, who testified earlier and were still detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID), be released to "freely" testify again in court.

Several witnesses who had testified in this trial were detained at the GID for over a month for another case, according to their own testimony in court.

"I want to confirm that all the charges against me are fabricated and untrue," Mr. Shbeilat told the court. "This case is a vengeful act aimed at silencing me politically."

Sheikh Qarash, who had visibly lost a lot of weight — which

was later confirmed when he later said that Wednesday was the ninth day of a hunger-strike — reiterated what Mr. Shbeilat said, adding that he too would not make any statement or testimony in the court.

After the two deputies told the court that they did not appoint new defence, Judge Faouri announced that Mazen Al Hadid would be appointed as Mr. Shbeilat's lawyer and Mohammad Iswid as Sheikh Qarash's counsel at government expense.

Prominent Christian lawyer Salim Sweiss had volunteered to defend Mr. Shbeilat after his defence team, which was led by Ibrahim Bakr, had quit the case. According to Rima Shbeilat, the deputy's wife, her husband had refused any lawyer to defend him until the court addresses his demands.

The presiding judge said that since some of the charges against the two deputies were punishable by death, the court left it necessary to appoint legal defence. He also defended the court's approval of holding a secret session last Saturday, saying it was "legal." Judge Faouri also rejected what he described as placing "conditions" on the proceedings of the trial.

The 15-minute session came to

an end when the presiding judge adjourned the court until Sunday to give time to the newly-appointed lawyers to study the case files.

For the first time, the public was asked to stay inside the courtroom for five minutes to wait for the four defendants to leave court first.

Outside the court compound, an angry crowd shouted slogans in support of Mr. Shbeilat as some waved their kuffiyas in the air.

The demonstrators rejected "insults" made earlier by Maj. Hijazi in the courtroom where he cursed those who applauded Mr. Shbeilat.

The men estimated to be 100, shouted slogans in support of King Hussein "Oh, Hussein, we want Laith (free)," the demonstrators chanted as security men stood by, trying to keep traffic moving.

"This is not just the case of Laith," said one man who said he had come from Irbid. "This is the case of the people of Jordan and their rights."

One angry supporter, one of many who had come from Tafleh (Mr. Shbeilat's hometown) and Ma'an, said that King Hussein had taught Jordanians "the meaning of justice, truth and freedom, and only His Majesty can solve this problem."

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

from the Dereiat tribe and one from Al Shahman. The first man cultivated a piece of land belonging to the second and killed him when he was asked to leave. The Dereiat man sent the corpse to a Shahman tribal chieftain with a message saying: "Take your dog."

Meanwhile, Iraqi opposition leaders are gathering in northern Iraq to plan the downfall of President Saddam and set up a power structure to replace him.

"It is the first time all the opposition leaders will meet together on Iraqi soil," Safwan Dizeyee, Ankara spokesman of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told Reuters Wednesday. The Iraqi national congress was due to begin its meeting at a "secret location" in Iraqi Kurdistan Friday but Dizeyee said a weekend start now looked more likely.

Seventh round of talks opens

(Continued from page 1)

the talks would be overshadowed by a Clinton administration concentrating on economic recovery.

In Damascus, Palestinian women from an alliance of 10 hardline groups denounced the peace process and urged the PLO to test Palestinian support for the talks in a referendum.

The women told a Damascus news conference that the talks would lead nowhere and that a self-rule plan under discussion was "aimed at eliminating the Palestinian cause."

"When the Palestinian peace negotiators returned from the first round of peace talks they were welcomed as heroes but now with one year passing without any results they have lost any respect," said Rehab Nazzari of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Palestinians were fed up with

promises from PLO leaders seeking to convince them the peace talks would lead to recognition of Palestinian rights, she added.

The 10-member alliance, formed last month to oppose the Washington talks, included four factions grouped under the umbrella of the PLO, four groups opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and two Islamic fundamentalist groups.

The women issued a statement calling for a referendum inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories "to see what the Palestinian people thought of the self-rule plan and peace negotiations in their present shape."

It also said Mr. Arafat should "stop giving more concessions to the Zionist enemy and America who want to bury our rights for ever."



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Municipality of Greater Amman Amman Transport and Municipal Development Project (Loan No. 2334 - JO) Reissue of Road Maintenance Equipment Tender IFB 2/90

The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above mentioned loan for the reissue of road maintenance equipment tender which includes the following: Water Tanks, Dump Trucks, Vibratory Rollers, Road Milling Machine, Fuel Tank, Loaders, Crack Filling Machine, Road Marking Machine, Bitumen Distributor & Tanker.

Tender documents will be available as of October 24, 1992 for a non-refundable fee of (JD 160) one hundred sixty JD for each set form;

Municipality of Greater Amman, Tenders Department

P.O. Box 132, Amman - Jordan
Tel: 21969 AMCTY JO, fax: 649420

Companies that participated in above mentioned tender can obtain the tender documents at no fee.

Closing date for accepting the bids is 10:00 hours November 23, 1992 at the same address mentioned above.

A bank guarantee as a bid bond is a must for accepting the bids, amounting to (5 %) of the total bid value and all bidders must comply fully with page (39) of the tenders documents in order for their bids to be accepted.

All bids will be opened publicly on the same closing date at 12:00 hours.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Chang, Lendl win easily in first-day action

HONG KONG (AP) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl crushed Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-1, 6-2 to kick off first-day action in the \$641,000 Hong Kong Marlboro Championships round-robin tennis tournament. The tournament's top seed, Michael Chang of the United States, also won his opening match by cruising past Sweden's Magnus. In other first-day play, Spain's Emilio Sanchez whipped Xia Jiaoping, China's top player, 6-1, 6-0, and former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany beat Czechoslovakia's Martin Damm 6-3, 6-3. Croatian Goran Prpic downed Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-4, 6-4. Woodforde was a late replacement for Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi of the United States, who pulled out Sunday because of illness.

Kaiserslautern beat Sheffield Wednesday

LONDON (R) — Sheffield's Wednesday's David Hirst, in only his second match after seven weeks out with a broken ankle, scored and was then sent off in the first half as the English club lost 3-1 to Germany's Kaiserslautern in the UEFA Cup. The England striker had put Wednesday ahead after five minutes but the Germans equalized within a minute from the spot when Viv Anderson felled Marcel Witeczek. Striker Marcus Marin ran clear and fired a low shot past goalkeeper Chris Woods in the 55th minute and Witeczek got the third when he shot into an empty net two minutes later.

Graf wins easily after visit to Wimbledon

BRIGHTON (R) — Steffi Graf began the defence of her Brighton Indoor Tennis title with an emphatic win Tuesday after an impromptu visit to Wimbledon. The German beat Latvian Larisa Savchenko-Neiland 6-2, 6-3 for her 26th successive win in the competition. It was the top seed's first match in Britain since her 6-2, 6-1 defeat of Yugoslav Monica Seles in the Wimbledon final in July and she revealed later she had been unable to resist dropping in on the London Club Monday. "I was passing close by Wimbledon and I thought 'let's take a look inside,'" said the 23-year-old Graf, who has won the Wimbledon title four times in the last five years. "I went to the secretary's office and they said 'do you want to hold the trophy?' I said sure."

Rosset threatens to boycott Davis Cup

LYON (R) — Olympic champion Marc Rosset threatened Tuesday to boycott the Davis Cup next season if the Swiss Tennis Association (ATS) dismiss national coach Georges Deniau. Frenchman Deniau and the ATS are at odds over the site of a national training camp and the federal policy towards young players. "If the federation sack Georges, I will take sanctions. It'll be warfare between us and it is quite possible I'll never play Davis Cup for Switzerland again," said Rosset, Switzerland, who met the United States in the Davis Cup final December 4 to 6, were drawn to play India in the first round of the world group next year.

Juventus beat Panathinaikos 1-0

ATHENS (AP) — English striker David Platt scored in the 68th minute to give Juventus a 1-0 victory over Panathinaikos Athens in a first-leg, second-round game for the UEFA Cup, Tuesday. The win makes Juventus' effort to advance to the third round of the competition easier. The second-leg game will be played in Turin in two weeks. Despite the absence of striker Dimitris Saravakos of Panathinaikos and Gianluca Vialli of Juventus because of leg injuries, the game was exciting. Playing before a capacity crowd of 75,000 people at the Athens Olympic Stadium, Panathinaikos applied its usual forcing tactics, while the visitors struck back on rapid counter attacks.

Germans plan light penalty on Strauss for doping

BONN (R) — German swimming officials could face fierce opposition from international anti-doping campaigners after proposing to place a light penalty on former world champion Astrid Strauss for a positive drugs test. Under International Swimming Federation (FINA) rules, the minimum ban for a first doping offence was 18 months when the 23-year-old former east German was found to have high levels of the steroid testosterone in her urine during a test in March. But DSV anti-doping expert Juergen Media said the federation planned to take advantage of its legal right not to report the case to FINA, therefore avoiding a tougher ban.

Milan set for fresh entry in record books

ROME (R) — Irresistible AC Milan, the league champions and dominant force in Italian soccer, will claim another record if they avoid defeat at Parma Sunday. Milan, who last season became the first club to complete a 34-match league programme unbeaten, have now equalled Fiorentina's 1955-56 record of 40 successive league games without defeat. A draw or better at Parma would see them etch their name more deeply in the record books. Few would bet against Milan breaking the record after dazzling performances this season in which they have rattled in 20 goals.

Germany to open 1994 World Cup in Chicago

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champions Germany will open the 1994 World Cup in Chicago, kicking off a 52-game soccer extravaganza played in nine sites across the United States, officials announced Tuesday.

Germany will launch the month-long tournament Friday, June 17, after opening ceremonies at Soldier Field. The Cotton Bowl in Dallas will also host a game later that day.

Germany, top-seeded in group C, will play the second-seeded team in their group for the opening game. The rest of the field, other than the hosting United States, has yet to qualify for the tournament.

The 24 finalists will be placed into six groups of four at the World Cup final draw in Las Vegas in December 1993.

The United States, hosting their first World Cup, are expected to be top seeds in group A, in keeping with recent practice, and would thus play their first game June 18 in the Pontiac Silverdome outside Detroit in the

first World Cup match ever played indoors.

All games, except the final, will begin at either 1230, 1600 or 1930 EDT (1630, 2000 or 2330 GMT). The final, to be played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, Sunday, July 17, will begin at 1530 EDT (1930 GMT).

Speaking at a news conference in Los Angeles, World Cup USA 1994 chairman Alan Rothenberg said: "The schedule is very unique and very favorable both for live audiences and TV viewers."

Rothenberg said the schedule was devised to allow fans in a given area to see as many matches as possible and also noted there were 24 weekend games out of the 52 to be played — more than in any previous World Cup.

Weekend matches allow for more afternoon starting times for "attractive time zones in South America, Europe and Africa, who would be watching either in the mornings in their time zones or in prime time," Rothenberg said.

Magic back in Lakers uniform at the Forum

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Magic Johnson was back in a Los Angeles Lakers uniform at the Forum Tuesday night for the first time since he announced his retirement last Nov. 7.

A beaming Johnson was given a brief standing ovation by the sparse but enthusiastic crowd as he led the Lakers onto the floor for their exhibition game against the Philadelphia 76ers which the Lakers won 138-111.

In the Lakers' locker room before the game, Johnson said: "I feel real emotional about this. I know it's going to feel as good as the first time I did it 12 years ago."

And after the game, he summed up his feeling: "I've been lost and I finally made it home. I followed the yellow brick road."

Although the crowd was only 12,603 in the 17,505-seat arena, some of the regulars who watched Johnson star for the Lakers through 12 seasons were on hand for his return, including Jack Nicholson and Dyan Cannon in their usual courtship seats.

Johnson, the NBA's all-time assists leader, fed "Vlade Divac for the Lakers' first points of the game."

Desert Challenge included in 7-event world cup

DUBAI (AP) — The Desert Challenge has been included in the 7-event new cross country four-wheel drive world cup which will be run for the first time over three continents next year.

Taking place in November 1993, the 4WD UAE Desert Challenge event, will bring to a climax a world championship series beginning in Tunisia in April and attracting manufacturers team such as Mitsubishi and Peugeot as well as the world's top drivers.

Announcing the motor sport's world governing body FISA deci-

sion, the six-time Middle East rally champion Mohammad Bin Sulayem said Desert Challenge was one of the toughest of 4WD events and he was proud to be part of the pioneering workforce to bring the world cup series event to the United Arab Emirates.

The other world cup event dates are: Rally Tunisia (April 15-25), Atlas Morocco (May 19-27), Sardinia (June 7-15), Baja 1000, Portugal (July 1-4), Baja Espana, Spain (July 15-18), and Pharaohs Egypt (Oct. 1-13).

"The only area of the world in which the timing is unfavorable is in Asia," Rothenberg said, adding: "The timing of the games and the areas they are playing have in effect shrunk America."

A dedicated fan based in the northeast, could attend 14 of the 18 games played in Boston, New York, and Washington a fan on the West Coast could see 13 of 14 games played in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and a fan situated in the midwest could catch all nine games played in Chicago and Detroit.

In addition to these combinations, five games are scheduled to be played at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida, and six games are set for the Cotton Bowl in Texas.

For the first time, all World Cup venues will host games involving top seeds. Each of the nine sites will have at least two matches featuring a top seed during the first stage.

The Pontiac Silverdome is the only site to be dropped after the

first stage of the tournament, reflecting a concern among tournament organizers over the experimental nature of putting down a natural grass field in an indoor stadium.

"In all honesty we're not sure of the likelihood of the grass lasting more than a month but we fully expect the grass to last beyond two weeks," said U.S. World Cup spokesman John Griffin.

The Silverdome is scheduled to host four games over an 11-day period.

Griffin said officials were satisfied with tests done by Michigan State University scientists of putting a special grass down in large connecting trays. "No doubt about it, we have complete faith it will work," Griffin said.

The grass field will be grown in California and shipped to Detroit. It will be tested during next June's U.S. Cup '93.

A grass field will also be laid over artificial turf at Giants Stadium, the stadium site for New York/New Jersey.

Mansell seeks first Japan win and record 10th of year

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell faces a personal challenge in Japan this weekend when he attempts his 10th win of the season on a circuit which he has never finished.

The world champion-elect, who has already scored an unprecedented nine wins in a single season, will be favourite to add to that total in his penultimate Formula One race before joining the Newman-Haas Indycar team in America.

"Suzuka is a demanding track which is a challenging one for the drivers and one I enjoy," said Mansell. "I am looking forward to trying to win in Japan as it is one of the few circuits on which I have never won. It really is a good circuit which most of us like as it is very testing for the driver."

"It is a fast-medium track, with some difficult corners, and the unique cross over which you don't think about once you start racing there."

But while Mansell goes in search of more glory with the

Williams team, the future of the Anglo-French outfit and their drivers is still a subject of intense speculation.

Mansell is leaving Formula One and his veteran Italian team mate Riccardo Patrese is moving to Benetton next season, but the Williams team has announced only one replacement driver in Frenchman Alain Prost. Another is still to be named.

A series of names has been suggested for the seat, including Britons Martin Brundle, Johnny Herbert and Damon Hill, American Al Unser Jr., Frenchman Erik Comas, Finn Mika Hakkinen and three times champion Brazilian Ayrton Senna.

McLaren's run of success was halted in dramatic fashion this year and after being outperformed by Williams they suffered a further blow when their engine suppliers Honda announced they were pulling out of Formula One at the end of the season.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be careful to do nothing that can be used against you in any way, today or in the future, otherwise you may have conditions develop unexpectedly that can throw you for a loss unless you are prepared.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to be most particular in whatever arises today that is of a material nature for mistakes can easily be made in assets or liabilities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You would be wise to take a good look at yourself to make sure you are being out of your greatest amount of clarity so others want to go along with you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A very good day to look into all accounts of expenses with an eagle eye and to analyze your finances and how to quickly build them up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a day when it is necessary that you proceed slowly in going after your personal wishes or you will push them further away from you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day and evening make sure you are as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove in your dealing with outside interests and persons.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You yearn to get into some more fascinating outlets that you know something about but you

need to round out your knowledge before doing so.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your day to make sure you delve more deeply into what ever mundane relationships you have and get an experienced businessman to help you make decisions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have strong association today with an associate of very fixed views and you might as well try to compromise as you won't change that person's views.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day when you want to finish the weekday's duties in an efficient fashion and it will take considerable effort and control to do so.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well the cost of any pleasures you are considering for they can amount to more than you had expected unless you have an iron bound agreement concerning them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Silence will be the best attitude at your residence when some problems of a practical nature arise and especially avoid discussions over money matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try not to make any slip of the pen or of the tongue in communications or you find that wrong impressions are the result with much trouble in straightening them out.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As the Sun enters Scorpio you have an excellent day to do the brain work necessary to understand what this scientific age is bringing about for man's betterment. Enjoy social activity tonight.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put in motion a more worldly awareness of your abilities at being endowed with good common sense and from what now happens you see clearly changes that are necessary.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some better ways to make yourself more attractive to those persons you want to know better, then don't hesitate but take treatments to do so at once.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now need to consider better means and methods for dealing with any business activities after which don't loiter but put into motion these revisions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find that both good friends and outside associates of a serious bent of mind are willing to go along with some new aims that motivate you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your special work is now being observed by one in power who will give you a new start if you are willing to make some minor changes that person suggests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A prosperous woman of different views from yours can give you the chance now to show your talents even though he has ideas for their improvement.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider in conversations with your own family what you can best do to have more unified business activity for you and their financial well being.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to answer messages from those who look to you for suggestions from the outside world and then go along with their responses.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You see now how your usual activities can produce a greater amount of income and revenue and ancillary benefits for you by making changes.

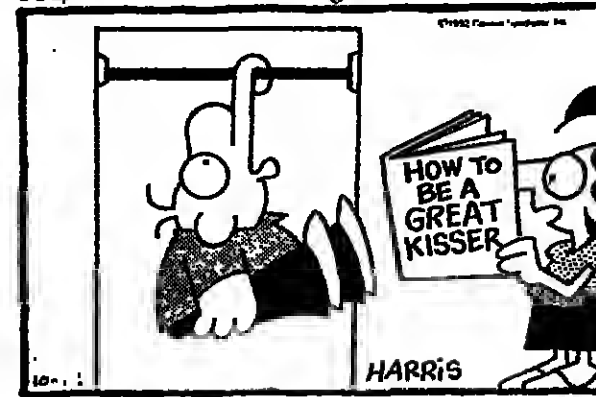
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can now arrange the financial and practical side of the various pleasures and recreations in which you wish to participate with comrades.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A more practical and understanding approach at problems of a family member can be well handled by talking it out and reaching a new understanding.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An older friend who clearly sees where your life is headed in a personal direction has some valuable ideas whereby you can get more out of life.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"For powerful, manly kisses do 50 lip-ups every day."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUNCE

KRUMY

THODEB

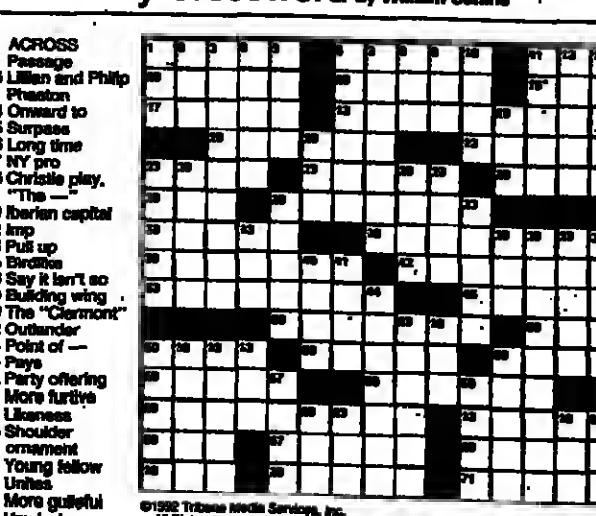
GLUBIN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: KNAVE VIRUS DELUGE BRONCO
Answer: What was all that fuss at the card game?—NO BIG DEAL.

THE Daily Crossword by William Coats



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

1 Across: LILIAN and Philip
11 Across: 12 Across: 13 Across: 14 Across: 15 Across: 16 Across: 17 Across: 18 Across: 19 Across: 20 Across: 21 Across: 22 Across: 23 Across: 24 Across: 25 Across: 26 Across: 27 Across: 28 Across: 29 Across: 30 Across: 31 Across: 32 Across: 33 Across: 34 Across: 35 Across: 36 Across: 37 Across: 38 Across: 39 Across: 40 Across: 41 Across: 42 Across: 43 Across: 44 Across: 45 Across: 46 Across: 47 Across: 48 Across: 49 Across: 50 Across: 51 Across: 52 Across: 53 Across: 54 Across: 55 Across: 56 Across: 57 Across: 58 Across: 59 Across: 60 Across: 61 Across: 62 Across: 63 Across: 64 Across: 65 Across: 66 Across: 67 Across: 68 Across: 69 Across: 70 Across: 71 Across: 72 Across: 73 Across: 74 Across: 75 Across: 76 Across: 77 Across: 78 Across: 79 Across: 80 Across: 81 Across: 82 Across: 83 Across: 84 Across: 85 Across: 86 Across: 87 Across: 88 Across: 89 Across: 90 Across: 91 Across: 92 Across: 93 Across: 94 Across: 95 Across: 96 Across: 97 Across: 98 Across: 99 Across: 100 Across: 101 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South East Asia replaces U.S. for most South Korean investment

SEOUL (AP) — South East Asia has replaced the United States as the region most favoured by South Korean business investors, the ministry of trade and industry said Wednesday. In a report submitted to the National Assembly, the ministry said South Korean investment in South East Asian nations totalled \$1.45 billion in 1991, compared with \$1.41 billion in 1990. The ministry said South Korean investment in the United States of \$1.41 billion 469 projects, if said. As manufacturing and labour costs in South Korea have grown, businessmen and conglomerates have turned toward South East Asian nations for cheaper production and investment opportunities. At the end of last year, South Korean investment in the United States had led investment in South East Asia by \$1.18 billion to \$1.14 billion, the ministry said. Investments in Europe totalled \$63.4 million and investment in Central and South America totalled \$21.3 million, it said.

Mufleh Agel sheds more light on banks in Jordan

'Banks in Jordan' show where banks stand

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Bank and the Housing Bank led all commercial banks in Jordan at the end of 1991 in terms of the volume of deposits, assets, equity, net profit before tax, and dividend.

According to a specialised study prepared by Mufleh Agel, a senior official at Arab Bank, published last week in the Banks in Jordan magazine, both the Arab Bank and the Housing Bank had a total of JD 2,293.1 million in deposits and a total of JD 2,605.0 million in assets at the end of last year.

Taking the figures against a grand total of JD 4, 274.0 million of deposits and JD 4,945.2 million of assets held by the 17 banks which the survey covered, the two leading banks controlled 53.6 per cent and 52.7 per cent of the deposits and assets respectively.

Yet the gap between the top two banks was extremely large as the Arab Bank had 37.17 per cent, or JD 1,588.5 million, of the deposits while the Housing Bank had JD 704.7 million, or 16.5 per cent.

The Arab Bank had also the lion's share of the total assets, having acquired 36.0 per cent, or JD 1,780.6 million, while the Housing Bank had only 16.7 per cent, or JD 824.3 million.

The growth in deposits and assets from the end of 1990 to the end of 1991 was the highest at the Business Bank where deposits shot up by 108.8 per cent to reach JD 84.9 million at the end of last year.

The Business Bank also recorded a 98.7 per cent growth in assets, registering JD 94 million at the end of last year.

The bank which ranked second in terms of assets growth was the Arab Land Bank, which managed to make a 80 per cent leap to reach JD 110.5 million, or 2.23 per cent of the banks' grand total.

The Arab Land Bank made a remarkable progress in boosting its deposits by 81.3 per cent in 1991 but the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) excelled and ranked second by recording a deposit increase of 99.0 per cent to reach JD 53.2 million.

The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) ranked sixth in terms of assets growth, which rose 51.3 per cent, reaching JD 77.9 million. The amount placed the corporation as No. 15 on the list which ranked banks by assets volume.

Citibank ranked the last at the

17th spot in the schedule showing the percentage of credit facilities to total deposits including foreign currencies. The percentage of 20.5 per cent was entirely the other extreme as Citibank ranked first with a 120.2 per cent when credit facilities to deposits excluded foreign currency deposits.

The highest percentage of credit facilities to total deposits (including foreign currencies) was recorded by the Amman Bank for Investment (71.8 per cent). It was followed by the Jordan Islamic Bank (66.1 per cent), the Jordan National Bank (61.7 per cent), the Arab Land Bank (60.9 per cent), the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) (58.9 per cent) and the Bank of Jordan (50.1 per cent).

By excluding foreign currencies from the deposits, the percentage of the credit facilities to deposits becomes the highest to Citibank, as mentioned earlier. In following spots came the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) (115.6 per cent), the Amman Bank for Investment (110.6 per cent), the British Bank of the Middle East (95.9 per cent), the Jordan Islamic Bank (85.4 per cent) and the Arab Jordan Investment Bank (79.2 per cent).

The Arab Bank percentage of credit facilities to deposits (in both categories) ranked second from last at 23.7 per cent (with foreign currencies) and at 46.2 per cent. The Housing Bank was in seventh place at 47.8 per cent and 10th at 68.3 per cent (deposits in dinars only).

In terms of net profit both the Arab Bank and the Housing Bank retained the lead as the Arab Bank posted a JD 10.5



Mufleh Agel

million net profit in 1991 while the Housing Bank ranked in second place with a JD 3.8 million profit. In following spots were: The British Bank of the Middle East (JD 3.006 million), the Jordan Islamic Bank (JD 3.005 million), the Jordan National Bank (JD 2.5 million), ANZ Grindlays (JD 2.1 million) and Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (JD 1.9 million).

Both the Business Bank and Bank of Jordan had no profit in 1991 and, thus, Jordan Kuwait Bank was the last with a JD 0.8 million net profit. Cairo Amman Bank was the second from last at JD 1.0 net profit.

In terms of dividends approved for distribution among shareholders the Arab Bank was the most generous with a 25 per cent followed by the Housing Bank (14 per cent), the Jordan National Bank (13 per cent), the Jordan Islamic Bank (12 per cent), the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (12 per cent), the Jordan Arab Investment Bank (11 per cent), the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (nine per cent) and Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) (six per cent).

Mr. Agel worked out a special table to measure efficiency at banks. The efficiency indicator is derived by dividing expenses (except interest) by the net profit before tax.

As such, the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank topped the list with JD 0.720. The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) came second with JD 0.860. Citibank came third (JD 0.980) followed by the British Bank of the Middle East (JD 1.000), ANZ Grindlays (JD 1.180), the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (JD 1.260). The Housing Bank, the Jordan Kuwait Bank and Cairo Amman Bank were the least efficient as they measured JD 4.630, JD 6.340 and JD 9.150 respectively.

The study included another table rating banks according to "net profit before tax per employee." This calculation was done by dividing the net profit before tax by the number of employees at the bank at the end of the year.

In this regard, the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank started by registering JD 36396 per employee. Citibank came second for a JD 26489 per employee while Amman Investment Bank recorded JD 17978. The Housing Bank, Cairo Amman Bank and Jordan Kuwait Bank trailed the list of JD 2387, JD 1550 and JD 1391 respectively.

Ratings based on the volume of shareholder's equity featured Arab Bank as No. 1 with JD 41 million followed by the Housing Bank and the Jordan National Bank of JD 33 million and JD 20 million respectively. The Jordan Islamic Bank ranked in fourth place at JD 13 million.

However, when the percentage ratio of shareholders equity to deposits was considered, Arab Bank was last at 2.6 per cent. The first four highest were the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) at 19.7 per cent, the Union Bank for Saving and Investment at 18.8 per cent, the Jordan National Bank at 15.0 per cent and Citibank at 14.3 per cent.

The British Bank of the Middle East showed the most profitability when the net profit was divided by the average shareholder's equity at the beginning and at the end of the year. The British Bank recorded 39.4 per cent followed by the Arab Bank (29.4 per cent), ANZ Grindlays (29.4 per cent), the Jordan Islamic Bank (23.9 per cent) and the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (23.5 per cent).

Amman Investment Bank posted a negative 52.5 per cent return to equity ratio while the percentage for both Cairo Amman Bank and Jordan Kuwait Bank was 9.4 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively.

Finally, Mr. Agel produced a table known as the "average assets per employee."

In this section, Jordan Finance and Investment Bank ranked the first with JD 1.9 million of assets per employee. Citibank was second with JD 1.1 million followed by Amman Investment Bank (JD 0.9 million) and Arab Bank (JD 0.8 million). Arab Land Bank was the lowest with JD 0.2 million per employee.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 20/10/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 21/10/92
Sterling Pound	1.6233	1.6165
Deutsche Mark	1.5184	1.5149
Swiss Franc	1.3575	1.3558
French Franc	5.1490	5.1405**
Japanese Yen	122.45	122.38
European Currency Unit	1.2905	1.2921**

*** 100 Yen to 1000 Yen
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Intercontinental Interest Rates Date: 21/10/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.56	3.56	3.93
Sterling Pound	8.00	7.62	7.00	6.75
Deutsche Mark	8.62	8.50	8.12	7.82
Swiss Franc	6.00	6.06	6.16	5.47
French Franc	9.87	9.75	9.37	9.00
Japanese Yen	3.96	3.81	3.71	3.68
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	9.75	9.50

Interbank bid rates for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Forward Metals Date: 21/10/92

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	343.48	6.75	Silver	3.78	.082

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 21/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.682	0.684
Sterling Pound	1.1010	1.1035
Deutsche Mark	0.4507	0.4520
Swiss Franc	0.5043	0.5058
French Franc	0.1330	0.1337
Japanese Yen	0.5580	0.5600
Dutch Guilder	0.4005	0.4025
Swedish Krona	0.1197	0.1203
Italian Lira	0.0513	0.0516
Belgian Franc	0.02188	0.02199

Other Currencies Date: 21/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Rubalski Dinar	1.7890	1.8080
Lebanese Lira	0.02900	0.03200
Saudi Riyal	0.1816	0.1827
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2359	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.18488	0.1864
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.18488	0.1864
Greek Dracmas	0.3575	0.3585
Cypriot Pound	1.5070	1.5250

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	19/10/92	Close	20/10/92	Close
All-Share	152.95		153.39	
Banking Sector	116.60		166.73	
Insurance Sector	166.58		166.86	
Industry Sector	198.98		199.99	
Services Sector	220.44		220.46	

* October 21, 1992 - 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
NOTES: BANK OF JORDAN - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 642010 / 642100
ORGANIZED MARKET SEARS PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 21/10/1992

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	PRICE CHANGE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	48,700	2,540	2,550	2,400
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	55,160	2,140	2,260	2,160
THE HOUSING BANK	22,827	3,330	3,330	2,330
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	300	2,000	2,000	2,000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	160,760	3,420	3,500	2,500
UNION BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	10,160	2,060	2,020	2,020
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION (JORDAN)	19,117	3,040	2,900	2,900
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	22,550	4,000	2,970	3,980
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	640,129	1,400	1,420	1,470
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	98,052	1,900	1,890	1,900
REGIONAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT	94,608	3,580	3,590	3,590
BUSINESS BANK	1,660	2,370	2,320	2,320
REIT JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	424,183	5,520	5,510	5,620
BANK OF JORDAN	16,132	17,980	17,980	17,980
ARAB BANK	50,445	129,000	129,000	129,000
AL-KHAYMA INVESTMENT	9,754	4,230	4,230	4,440
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	22,816	2,900	3,000	3,000
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,680	2,600	2,600	2,600
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	20,540	2,100	2,100	2,100
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	7,250	2,050	2,070	2,070
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	16,560	2,470	2,470	2,480
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	302,148	6,300	6,340	6,340
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	5,262	1,230	1,270	1,270
LITTON & POLLEN	1,292	2,120	2,160	2,280
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	145,638	2,100	2,100	2,120
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER GOODS	22,552	1,120	1,140	1,140
HOUSING EQUIP. TRADING & INVESTMENT	7,349	1,230	1,240	1,250
PETER INVESTMENTS & EQUIPMENT LEASING	106,129	0,750	0,760	0,770
JORDAN KOWATY CO. FOR BAKL & FOOD PROD.	4,132	1,120	1,120	1,170
ARAB PARTS CONVERTING & TRADING	98,461	1,450	1,420	1,420
JORDAN TRADING	22,001	2,850	2,870	2,880
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	388,442	6,400	6,400	6,420
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	99,794	6,780	6,800	6,770
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	40,109	5,780	5,900	5,780
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	170,050	5,840	5,900	5,910
DAR AL DINA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	351,842	6,470	6,500	6,500
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	21,831	7,560	7,480	7,480
THE JORDAN MOBILE HILLS	7,773	11,000	11,000	10,960
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	36,732	5,890	5,900	5,900
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	11,123	0,720	0,740	0,720
JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	4,880	3,900	3,900	3,900
THE JORDAN FIBRE MANUFACTURING	15,480	2,480	2,480	2,490
ARAB CENTRE FOR PETRO. & CHEMICALS	76,503	2,330	2,320	2,340
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	5,214	0,840	0,850	0,880
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,566	4,800	4,840	4,840
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	29,557	12,250	11,650	12,400
ALABIN INDUSTRIES	5,723	2,540	2,500	2,500
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	1,402	3,390	3,500	2,500
WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	29,888	3,290	3,300	3,270
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	8,263	1,210	1,200	1,180
SPORTING & WEAVING	47,995	2,000	2,000	2,990
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	24,537	5,300	5,200	5,370
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	70,627	2,990	3,990	3,990
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	57,066	1,340	1,340	1,370
JORDAN ROBOCOR INDUSTRIES	11,901	1,870	1,870	1,890
JORDAN PROMPT CONCRETE INDUSTRY	7,410	0,410	0,410	0,410
UNIVERSAL RUBBER INDUSTRIES	99,181	4,990	5,000	5,000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	152,454	2,820	3,800	2,790
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	10,881	21,010	21,000	22,500
JORDAN REFINERY	21,779	6,380	6,390	6,270

GRAND TOTAL 4,244,432

NO. OF TRADING SERVICES IN PARALLEL MARKET 23850

TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 1 JD 64121

Dutch, Belgians cut interest rates following German easing

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium and the Netherlands cut official interest rates Wednesday in a move which followed a lowering of German money market rates.

Earlier Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, signalled a fall in domestic money market rates by announcing it had injected funds into the banking system mostly at rates of 8.75 and 8.80 per cent this week after previously holding the rate at 8.90 per cent.

The lower money market rates were seen as a sign that the German central bank might eventually follow these with a cut in Germany's high official interest rates.

As the mark fell on hopes of lower official German rates, the Dutch central bank said that it was lowering its three key official interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point each to 8.5 per cent effective Thursday. This, it said, reflected the strength of the guilder.

It also lowered its so-called special advances money market rate to 8.5 per cent from 8.90 per cent.

The Belgian central bank said it was cutting its discount rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 7.75 per cent, effective from Thursday.

The Belgian bank earlier cut its key seven-day advances rate and its primary dealer overnight intervention rate by 0.15 of a percentage point to 8.75 per cent.

The Belgian franc and Dutch guilder are closely tied to the mark and monetary policy in Belgium and the Netherlands tracks that in Germany.

Separately, two Italian commercial banks said they were lowering their prime lending rates.

Italian state-controlled Banca Commerciale Italiana said it was cutting its prime and top lending rates by three-quarters of a percentage point, effective next Monday. The prime rate will become 16.25 per cent and the top rate, its highest lending rate, 22.25 per cent, it said in a state ment.

Unemployment in Canada remains high at 11.6%

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's jobless rate was stuck at 11.6 per cent in August for the third month, the government has reported.

The government agency Statistics Canada said the number of full-time jobs fell by 8,000 in August, while part-time positions rose by 19,000.

It said a total of 190,000 full-time jobs have been lost in the past year, while part-time employment climbed 60,000.

Analysts saw that as a shift to part-time employment that is both symptom and a cause of the floundering economy.

"When you look at income and retail sales, the move to lower paying part-time jobs is not constructive move," said David Rosenberg, an economist.

"This really shows how weak the economy is," said Ruth Getter, chief economist with the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

"Part-time workers are earning less money and are not necessarily permanent," she said. "If the feel less secure it doesn't lead to spending and that is what we are all waiting for."

Canada is going through its slowest recovery from recession since World War II. A year ago August the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent.

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Street fighting between Bosnians Croats forces U.N. evacuation

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Heavy street fighting has broken out between Muslims and ethnic Croats in the first serious clash between what had been nominal allies, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

The reported fighting, which broke out Tuesday in the city of Vitez about 60 kilometres south of Sarajevo, comes amid deepening tensions between Croats and Muslims, who had been focusing their energies on rebellious ethnic Serbs.

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, blamed Croats for the fighting.

"Some radical forces on the Croatian side are trying to provoke a conflict there, some radicals who are trying to make a state within a state," he said in Geneva, the site of ongoing U.N. and European Community (EC) peace talks.

Mr. Izetbegovic announced agreement Tuesday to allow Bosnia-Herzegovina to be divided into autonomous areas, a reversal of his earlier stand and in apparent concession to the Croats. He also said he would step down at the end of the year, perhaps paving the way for his replacement to be an ethnic Croat.

It is unclear, however, if those gestures would ease tensions. Muslim-led Bosnians have grown resentful of the firm control taken by the Croatian Military Organisation, or HVO, in mixed Muslim-Croatian areas.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government also is alarmed at signs of growing friendship between Croatia and Serbia, fearing the two will strike a separate peace and carve up Bosnia.

Fighting broke out in Bosnia in April after ethnic Serbs rebelled against a decision by the republic's majority Muslims and Croats to secede from Yugoslavia.

HVO is the military arm of an ethnic Croatian administration that runs much of the roughly 30 per cent of Bosnia not held by Serbs.

Word of the clashes between Muslims and Croats in Vitez came after an eight-person U.N. crew there was trapped by fighting and called for help.

The workers said there was shelling and heavy street fighting, with at least one bullet striking the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR, office.

Minor skirmishes had previously occurred in Vitez, but Tuesday's incident was the first reported instance of street fighting.

Croatian television late Tuesday also reported heavy fighting between Muslims and Croats in another central Bosnian town, Novi Travnik.

Fighting on roads to Sarajevo has virtually halted all overland deliveries of aid to the besieged city, which is facing desperate shortages of food and fuel, the UNHCR said Tuesday.

Although the Muslims and Croats are putative allies against the stronger Serbs, both Croats and Serbs favour dividing Bosnia into ethnic homelands.

The Muslims had insisted on a centralised government. But Mr. Izetbegovic said Tuesday that he would agree to divide Bosnia into

eight to 10 autonomous regions — as long as they are not based on ethnic lines.

Mr. Izetbegovic made his comments after meeting with President Dobrica Cosic of Yugoslavia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. Separately, Mr. Cosic and Mr. Tudjman signed an agreement to speed normalisation of relations between their states.

Serbs hold about one-third of Croatian territory, captured in fighting last year after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia, which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro.

Some 10,000 people died in that war, compared to at least 14,000 in the Bosnian conflict.

It was unclear what effect any agreement reached in Geneva would have without the support of Slobodan Milosevic, the hard-line Serbian president, or that of Serb fighters in Bosnia and Croatia.

Mr. Milosevic supports Serb fighters in Bosnia, while Yugoslav Federal Premier Milan Panic and Mr. Cosic have taken a more conciliatory stand toward Bosnia's government.

The United Nations said Wednesday it was suspending its airlift of relief supplies to Sarajevo indefinitely because of increased fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The U.N.'s logistics officer in Sarajevo, Larry Hollingworth, told reporters the UNHCR had ordered the suspension because air corridors into the Bosnian capital had become too dangerous.

The suspension brought a halt to all relief supplies to Sarajevo following the temporary closure of land routes over the past week.

Mr. Hollingworth referred specifically to Kiseljak and Vitez, to the west and north of the Bosnian capital, where Muslim and Croat allies have begun fighting



Boris Yeltsin
Russian parliament snubs Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's conservative parliament Wednesday snubbed President Boris Yeltsin by rejecting his request to postpone a session of the country's highest legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

The decision opens the way for a direct confrontation between the highly conservative congress and the reformist government of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, whose supporters fear its days could be numbered.

Most of the 1,000-odd deputies to the congress, which elects the standing parliament, are former Communist Party members who oppose the government's radical economic reforms. They say the reforms are leading the country to total ruin.

"This is a serious attempt to force the government's resignation, which now appears almost inevitable," liberal Deputy Sergei Kovalyov told reporters.

Although there is virtually no chance the congress will try to oust Mr. Yeltsin, elected last year by popular ballot, it can seriously cut his powers.

Only 59 deputies voted in favour of Mr. Yeltsin's formal request that the session of the congress be postponed from December to next March. Nearly twice as many, 114, voted against.

The move coincided with a demand by nationalist and radical parliamentary opposition leaders that Mr. Yeltsin resign on the grounds he had failed to avert crisis in Russia.

"You are incapable of leading Russia out of crisis. You are steering it not to revival but into a blind alley. Resign," the former Communist newspaper Pravda said.

Mr. Yeltsin had asked the standing parliament to delay the congress session, which he said would only stir political infighting. Regional leaders in Russia supported him.

The request was clearly designed to give the cabinet a chance to pull Russia through the winter, which critics say will bring more suffering to a population already struggling to survive drastic falls in living standards.

Mr. Yeltsin said the session should be postponed at least until March to allow time to prepare a post-Soviet constitution which congress is scheduled to pass.

Abkhazia talks resume, Georgia 'is planning' attack

MOSCOW (R) — Russia stepped up efforts Wednesday to secure peace between Georgia and its rebel region of Abkhazia amid reports Georgian loyalist forces were planning a new offensive on the separatists.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba in Moscow to try to stop the conflict escalating.

But a Georgian official told local television heavy weapons and reinforcements had been brought to the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi, now in the hands of Georgian government troops.

"They are preparing a wide-scale offensive on (the Abkhazian strongholds of) Gagra and Gudauta," local journalists quoted Tamaz Nadarashvili, a Georgian deputy head of the Abkhaz parliament, as saying.

Thousands have been killed since August in fighting between Georgian troops and Abkhazian rebels backed by volunteers from Russia's north Caucasus. The conflict flared after Tbilisi moved troops into the rebel region.

A Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement collapsed last month when Abkhazian forces ousted loyalist troops from the north of the region. They now hold territory stretching from the Russian border to the outskirts of Sukhumi.

A summit between Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, due last week, was postponed because neither side could agree on a preliminary agenda. Instead, foreign ministers met in Moscow to find a compromise.

Their talks failed and Mr. Kozyrev said he feared an explosion of violence as both sides "continued making a stake on force."

The stumbling block appeared to be Georgia's demand that Abkhazian troops withdraw from all territory seized in the latest offensive. Abkhazians in return demand the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the region.

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister who was elected Georgian leader with a landslide victory less than two weeks ago, told Russian Television Tuesday a meeting with Mr. Yeltsin was badly needed.

"A meeting with Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) is necessary and we must prepare for it. Failure to adopt a fundamental solution would, I believe, further complicate the present situation," he said.

NATO agrees to speed up work on peacekeeping role

GLENEAGLES, Scotland (AP) — NATO defence ministers Wednesday pledged to speed up efforts to give the 43-year-old military alliance a new mission as peacekeeper in the turbulence of post-cold war Europe.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney joined other defence chiefs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in offering further support to U.N. efforts to end the fighting in the former Yugoslavia.

"We are deeply disturbed by the continuing violence and destruction in and around Europe and, in particular, we deplore the tragic and worsening situation in the former Yugoslavia," the ministers said at the end of a two-day conference at the Gleneagles resort in northern Scotland.

They warned of the dangers of the economic and political upheavals in Eastern Europe, and reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the peace.

"The United States strongly supports an enhanced peacekeeping role for NATO," Mr. Cheney told a news conference.

Britain's Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said:

"With the agony of the former Yugoslavia always in front of us... we must be put at the disposal of the United Nations for the benefit of the people who are being exposed to such terrible dangers."

The ministers, in a final statement, promised to ready their troops and equipment "so that NATO is better prepared to respond to the international community when required."

At the start of the meeting, they ordered military aides to draw up plans by year's end for using the alliance's expertise in peacekeeping.

"NATO has unique assets and experience and a habit of working together in a way that has proven to be extremely effective," Mr. Rifkind said.

NATO foreign ministers decided in early June their troops and equipment could be dispatched on peacekeeping operations if asked by the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The decision reversed a decades-old policy limiting the deployment of forces to the territory of NATO countries.

No requests for peacekeeping help have been received.

But possibly foreshadowing their new duties, some NATO nations intend to have by early December about 5,000 soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect relief convoys.

And the ministers pledged "to provide further support to the efforts of the U.N. to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia."

Bosnia-Herzegovina has been under siege since its majority Muslims and Croats voted in February to secede. Ethnic Serbs took up arms to try to prevent the breakup.

Britain, Canada, France and Spain agreed to send troops, in line with an alliance decision in early September to offer escort soldiers to the United Nations.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said Tuesday he would urge his government to come up with \$39 million for a programme of logistical support, likely for transportation, in Bosnia. Germany's constitution bars the government from sending soldiers outside alliance territory.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said the allies agreed on new guidelines and procedures for managing a shamed-down nuclear arsenal in an era of diminished East-West tensions.

COLUMN

Madonna's book sells well down under

WELLINGTON (R) — Madonna's much-hyped coffee table book *Sex* was launched around the world Wednesday, hitting New Zealand and Australian book stores first because those countries are first to see each day. The metal-covered book, titled simply *Sex* and sealed from prying eyes by a plastic cover, contains full-frontal nude photos of the controversial American pop singer as well as graphic sexual fantasies. The text, often in the form of letters to friends, would not be out of place in the fiction pages of a soft-pornography magazine, and Madonna states at the start of the book that any similarity between the book and real life is coincidental. "Nothing in this book is true. I made it all up," writes the dyed-blond star who has made controversy her most marketable asset. Bookstores reported keen interest in the book, which is reported to have an initial print run of 800,000. New Zealanders bought the book for New Zealand dollars 75 (\$40) — cheaper than the \$49.95 price in the United States. "It's created a fuss. There's been a lot of excitement," said Wellington bookstore owner Tully Lloyd. But one young huyer, a 19-year-old woman, said she was shocked by the contents. "It was bad, but I am pretty open-minded, but I think Madonna's let herself down doing it," she said.

'Keep me alive until I can vote for Clinton'

HOUSTON (AP) — "Keep me alive until I can cast my vote," retired physician George Dodd told his wife, Reba, Dodd, 74, of Kerrville, was advised by his doctors last week he needed to go to a Houston hospital for treatment of a severe heart condition. But he refused to begin the 225-mile (360-kilometre) ambulance trip until an absentee ballot could be brought to him, his wife says. Texas' early voting was to begin the next day in Kerrville, and a poll worker agreed to take a ballot to the ambulance if Mr. Dodd could get the driver to stop outside the city auditorium. So off they went. "He was on his back in the ambulance," tubes sucking out, no glasses for reading, unable to fill out the ballot, Mrs. Dodd said. But when a worker brought the ballot out, Mr. Dodd told his wife how he wanted to vote. "I'm not leaving until I vote for Bill Clinton. I am not going to die until I vote Democratic," Mrs. Dodd quoted her husband as saying. A week later, he was in fair condition Tuesday at Methodist Hospital in Houston in the cardiac intensive care unit after a procedure to repair damaged blood vessels.

Japan, China get closer — literally

TOKYO (R) — Geologists have discovered that Japan and China are getting closer, literally. Japanese dailies reported. Measurements of the Earth's crust mean the two countries are converging at an annual rate of 2.9 cm (1.1 inches), scientists at Japan's Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said. The news was released as Emperor Akihito prepared to pay a historic visit to China, setting the seal on a different type of rapprochement — the 20th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties. The ministry said the measurements were carried out jointly by staff at its Communications Research Laboratory at Kashima, north of Tokyo, and counterparts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences based in Shanghai. They gauged the distance between the two places by noting the difference in time a radio wave emitted by a particular star took to reach them.

Free phone calls in Ukrainian city with no coins

KIEV (R) — The city council in a central Ukrainian city has decided to make calls from all public telephones free, because the coins needed have disappeared from circulation. Ukrainian television reported Tuesday that city councilors in Vinnytsa took the decision as the only solution to the shortage of 15-kopek coins throughout the former Soviet Union. "City leaders hope that in view of this privilege, residents will now look after their call boxes," the television reported. The shortage has created a black market in 15-kopek coins, which sell on Moscow streets for up to five roubles — more than 30 times their face value.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldier shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — A Northern Ireland soldier was shot dead in the British-ruled province as he walked home across a remote farmyard, police said Wednesday. They said the 43-year-old member of the Royal Irish Regiment was gunned down Tuesday evening as he walked across the yard of his uncle's farm near the village of Rasharkin. The dead man was a friend of Protestant preacher-politician Ian Paisley, who said the shooting was "a great tragedy." No group immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

Guam hit by 2nd typhoon

AGANA, Guam (AP) — The second typhoon in less than two months swept over Guam early Wednesday with wind gusts well over 100 mph (160 kph), knocking out power and water to parts of the island of 135,000 people. The eye of typhoon Brian passed over the southern tip of the island at midday Wednesday (about 0200 GMT), then moved back over ocean waters. The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre on Guam reported. The extent of damage couldn't immediately be determined because of communications problems, but initial, unofficial reports were optimistic. "It's clearly not as bad as typhoon Omar," said John Anderson of KGUM Radio Station in Agana. Omar slammed into the island on Aug. 28, destroying 900 homes and dozens of businesses and heavily damaging U.S. military installations. Damage from Omar was estimated at \$487 million.

Dutch, Germans agree to land swap

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Wars have been fought over less, but Germany and the Netherlands agreed Tuesday to swap several hundred tracts of land without exchanging so much as a cross word. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek and German Ambassador Klaus Citron approved the first border change since 1960, when Holland gave back territory annexed after World War II, the Dutch Foreign Minister said. Each nation gave the other five hectares (12.5 acres) of uninhabited land to make their 300-kilometre (200-mile) border smoother and more easily recognisable, a ministry spokesman said on condition of anonymity. Most were "tiny patches of unusable land" jutting beyond roads, canals, and railroad tracks, he said.

Actress Shirley Booth dies at 94

CHATHAM, Mass. (AP) — Actress Shirley Booth, who won two Emmys as the bossy maid Hazel in the 1960s TV comedy of the same name and Tony and Oscar awards for stage and screen versions of *Come Back, Little Sheba*, has died. Relatives gave her age as 94, said David Hunt of Nickerson Funeral Home. Reference books give her age as 85. She died Friday of natural causes at her home on Cape Cod, Mr. Hunt said. Booth won three Tonys in her stage career. Her best-known success came when she won a Tony and the New York Drama Critics Award as the lonely housewife Lola Delaney in a 1950 production of *Come Back, Little Sheba*. She won the Academy Award, the New York Film Critics Award, and the Cannes Festival Acting Award for the 1952 film version of the play, in which she played opposite Burt Lancaster. Ms. Booth also won Tonys for *Goodbye, My Fancy* in 1949 and *The Time Of The Cuckoo* in 1953.

Pilot dies in Spanish plane collision

MADRID (R) — A Spanish Air Force pilot was killed when two Spanish military jets collided in mid-air during manoeuvres over northern France, the Defence Ministry said. The ministry named the dead pilot as Jose Miguel Lopez Merino. Another pilot ejected and was treated for slight injuries in hospital. A spokeswoman said the two Mirage-F1 jets brushed against each other at 1230 (1130 GMT) at a height of around 3,000 feet (900 metres) as they were descending over the Somme region. The spokeswoman had no further details.

California issues highest quake alert

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Authorities said they had issued the highest possible earthquake alert for parts of central California after scientists said there is a chance of a major quake in the area in the next 72 hours. An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale hit the tiny town of Parkfield, 170 miles (270 km) southeast of San Francisco Monday without causing any damage or injuries. The State Office of Emergency Services issued a level 4 alert for Parkfield and parts of six nearby counties — the highest earthquake warning possible — half an hour later. The U.S. Geological Survey warned that there is a 37 per cent chance that an earthquake of 6.0 or higher on the Richter Scale could hit the area within the next three days.

'Kelly shot dead by lover who then killed himself'

BONN, Germany (AP) — Petra Kelly, founder of Germany's Greens Party and once a leading counterculture figure, was slain by her long-time lover who then used his .38-caliber Derringer to kill himself, police said.

The Greens Party started out as an amalgam of leftist fringe groups battling police at U.S. military bases in the early 1980s. At her death, much of Ms. Kelly's ecological platform had been embraced by mainstream parties throughout Europe, and Germany's president praised her struggle for "peace and justice."

The decomposing bodies of Kelly and her 69-year-old companion-former Gen. Gert Bastian, who quit the army to join the peace movement — were found in their house Monday night.

Gen. Bastian shot the 44-year-old Kelly in the left temple, then turned the weapon on himself, Helmut Otto, Bonn's chief detective, told reporters. He said the bodies could have been lying in the house for three weeks.

Ms. Kelly was in bed, in a bedspread under a cover. Gen. Bastian lay in the hall outside the bedroom.

There was some possibility that Ms. Kelly and Gen. Bastian, both

Bush vows to keep fighting in long-shot re-election bid

WASHINGTON (R) — Unbowed by his weak showing in the polls, President George Bush has painted himself as the true "comeback kid" of 1992, but Democratic Bill Clinton signalled no letup in his breakneck pace for the final two weeks of the campaign.

Independent candidate Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire with the one-line barb, piled on extra pressure by saying he too would take his campaign on the road.

Mr. Perot could siphon votes away from both men but has so far focused the brunt of his attacks on Mr. Bush.

That leaves the Republican president with his back to the wall — a position he claims to love — as he struggles to break records and close a double-digit poll gap in 14 days.

Mr. Clinton, once dismissed as having no chance and rechristened the "comeback kid" for his rebound in the primary season, even prepared to raid Republican strongholds in the western part of the United States.

Polls show the Arkansas governor could pull off a landslide victory on Nov. 3 if he can solidify support in those states.

Mr. Bush, by contrast, was forced to speak to crowds on what should have been his home turf — Georgia and the Carolinas — as he set out on a whistle-stop tour of the south.

Surprisingly at ease in his new role as the hungry underdog, Mr. Bush lashed out at Mr. Clinton before giddy crowds, fired up by Monday's fractious final campaign debate, which featured some of the campaign's best verbal volleys.

The president had no new strategy and knows that never before has a presidential candidate come from so far behind in so little time. Even so, at a stop in Cornelia, Georgia, he shouted: "We're going to win; I'm absolutely confident in my heart of hearts; don't believe these crazy polls."

Mr. Bush firmly declared the race "ain't over" but even Harry Truman, whose 1948 upset of Thomas Dewey set the standard for American political shockers, was not as far behind in the polls as Mr. Bush, who trails Mr. Clinton by anywhere from 15 to 19 points. Mr. Truman was five points behind with two weeks to go.

Vice President Dan Quayle, stumping in the Midwest, said the true George Bush was now on show.

"He does well under pressure. His back's against the wall. People have underestimated George Bush in the past. They have underestimated him this time because he's going to be a winner," Mr. Quayle said at a fundraiser in Dearborn, Michigan.

Mr. Clinton too spent the day in the industrial Midwest, where he ripped into Mr. Bush as a desperate man who is peddling lies to pump up his long-shot reelection bid.

Mr. Clinton and running mate Al Gore appealed for disenfranchised Republicans to jump aboard and warned die-hard fans in Chicago against complacency in the final days before the election.

"Whether you are Democrats,

Republicans, independents or former Perot supporters... Al Gore and I do not seek a victory for ourselves or our party. We want a mandate to rebuild this country and put our people first again," he said.

The Arkansas governor also said Mr. Bush — who has hammered away at taxes and trust — is lying by claiming Mr. Clinton would raise taxes on the middle class to pay for domestic programmes.

"Everybody who has looked at it has said it's a Republican negative campaign," he told reporters on the campaign trail.

Such traditional stumping, along with the daring Democratic forays planned for Wyoming and Nevada, took over where the debates left off.

Monday's 90-minute debate in East Lansing, Michigan, the last of three, was Mr. Bush's strongest yet, but voters polled still said Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot performed better.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department Tuesday defended President Bush against an attack from independent candidate Ross Perot impugning his conduct of policy towards Iraq.

The State Department intervention in the presidential race, backed by a stack of diplomatic cables and an unpublished letter from acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, came from a government agency already under fire from Democrats for meddling in the campaign.

Mr. Perot's charges produced one of the most dramatic exchanges of Monday's presidential debate.

Mr. Perot accused Mr. Bush of signalling to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein before he invaded Kuwait in August 1990 that Washington would not object to him taking over oilfields in the north of the emirate.

Mr. Perot also charged that Mr. Bush had kept key diplomatic documents secret from Congress and failed in his aim of eliminating Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

"We told him (Saddam) he could take the northern part of Kuwait, and when he took the whole thing, we went nuts," said Mr. Perot in a fierce and unexpected assault on the jewel in the crown of Mr. Bush's foreign policy — his Gulf war triumph.

"And if we didn't tell him that, why won't we even let the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee see the written instructions for Ambassador Glaspie? (Former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie)," said Mr. Perot.

Mr. Bush quickly interjected: "I've got to reply on that. That gets to the national honour. We did not say to Saddam Hussein, Ross, you can take the northern part of Kuwait."

Mr. Bush said Tuesday that former Secretary of State James Baker explained the facts to Mr. Perot after the debate.

"Every single paper, including the secretary of state's notes — which is unprecedented — was taken up to the U.S. Congress and looked at in detail," Mr. Bush said during a session with undecided voters in Atlanta, Georgia.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the debate format had not allowed Mr. Bush the opportunity to defend himself adequately. Mr. Eagleburger had therefore asked to use the department's daily news briefing to set the record straight.

"The United States has never, and I repeat, never, told or in any way indicated to Saddam Hussein that Iraq could take the northern part of Kuwait. Nowhere in any document is there the statement or even the suggestion that the United States ever told this to Saddam or any other Iraqi," said Mr. Boucher.

Mr. Boucher also denied Mr. Perot's charge that the State Department had given Ambassador Glaspie special instructions, which it was now keeping secret, for a meeting she held with Mr. Saddam on July 25, 1990 a week before he invaded Kuwait.

He disputed Mr. Perot's assertion that Iraq retained nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capabilities and said U.N. inspectors had discovered U.S. technology made no significant contributions to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Bolstering the case, Mr. Boucher released an unpublished letter from Mr. Eagleburger to the New York Times, which he said had been delivered last week, in which Mr. Eagleburger sought to defend the Bush administration's Iraq policy.

In the letter, Mr. Eagleburger accused the newspaper of having a "peacetime for distortion" and said it should get its facts straight before attacking Mr. Bush's Iraq policy.

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